

A cigarette box to save lives

What the legendary tobacco box from the Battle of Kunersdorf on 12 August 1759 might have meant to the Prussian King Frederick II was to the Durmersheim Grenadier Karl Bastian on 25 July 1916 in the First World War his wallet with a cigarette box as contents.

Both utensils owe their lives to their wearers when they were hit by an enemy bullet and the force of the bullets could thus be dampened.

Karl Bastian was recruited in May 1915 at the age of 20 to the Baden Grenadier Regiment 110 in Rastatt. He survived the war thanks to his turquoise "YENIDZE" cigarette box from Dresden, which he wore in the outer pocket of his uniform jacket and was therefore not life-threateningly injured on his thigh.

The shot through is clearly visible on the photo.

With this little report we don't want to give the impression that smoking should be healthy!