

# Bomb Under the Bed

Secrets can be destructive, no matter how long they have been buried, as residents of a Ukrainian village found out. A few years ago, the *Associated Press* reported this story:

For 43 years, Zinaida Bragantsova had been telling people there was a World War II bomb buried under her bed. The story began in 1941 when the Germans advanced toward the Ukrainian city of Berdyansk. One night at the very start of the war, Mrs. Bragantsova was sitting by the window and sewing on her machine. Suddenly, a noise was heard and a whistling close by. She got up and in the following moment was struck by a blast of wind. When she came to, the sewing machine was gone and there was a hole in the floor as well as in the ceiling.

Mrs. Bragantsova could not get any officials to check out her story, so she just moved her bed over the hole and lived with it – for the next 40 years.

Finally, the woman's problem was uncovered. As phone cable was being laid in the area, demolition experts were called in to probe for buried explosives. "Where's your bomb, grandma?" asked the smiling army lieutenant sent to talk to Mrs. Bragantsova. "No doubt, under your bed?"

"Under my bed," Mrs. Bragantsova answered dryly.

And sure enough, there they found a 500-pound bomb. After evacuating 2,000 people from surrounding buildings, the bomb squad detonated the bomb. According to the report, "The grandmother, freed of her bomb, will soon receive a new apartment."

That's quite a story. Imagine the anxiety Mrs. Bragantsova must have felt each night when she retired to bed, as well as anytime during the day when she was at home.

Sadly, many people live like that grandmother, with a bomb under the bed – a terrible secret, a great hurt, a seething anger or unforgiveness that lies there for years while everyone goes on about their business. Wellbeing is at risk until somehow it is removed.

--Beecher Hunter