



SPECIAL FOR THE HROMADA NEWSPAPER

Vitalii Portnikov | NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER
SEPTEMBER: OUR GAINS, KREMLIN'S HYSTERIA



September ends with Russian President Volodymyr Putin's decision to hold fake "referendums" on the territory of Ukrainian regions oc-

cupied by Russian troops and the announcement of the mobilization of reservists. This is another proof that the "special operation" that Putin launched on February 24 is not going according to plan.

They had been talking about holding "referendums" almost since the first days of the war. Even then, they claimed that Putin's recognition of the "independence" of the "people's republics" was a prelude to

page 9

PROSPECTS FOR RUNNING THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN 2023

page 2

UKRAINE ACTION SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, DC

page 6

ACROSS THE OCEAN TO STUDY

page 7

FANTOM IS A SYNONYM TO THE LIFE IN RUSSIA

page 8

On October 14, Ukraine celebrates 3 holidays: the Day of the Defender of Ukraine, the Intercession of the Mother of God, and the Day of the Ukrainian Cossacks. We pray for the lives of our soldiers! And let the combination of these solemn events bring victory to the Ukrainian army!

SPECIAL FOR THE HROMADA NEWSPAPER

Oles Donii
KHARKIV OFFENSIVE AND NUCLEAR WAR



The lightning-fast offensive of the Ukrainian military in Kharkiv area in

September became the most successful liberating territories operation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The efficient action led to many positive consequences both within the country and outside. Let's try to outline them briefly. They are significant and far-reaching. But let's not skip the correction tactics of fascist Russia including her threats of a nuclear attack.

page 11

«THE SPIRIT OF A WARRIOR WILL ALWAYS BE ALIVE»

Karina Nikitishina

Karina Synelnikova's story about her husband Oleksandr, who worked as a combat medic during the Russian-Ukrainian war and died while trying to help his wounded mate.

"We met each other, probably it sounds strange, on Facebook. Even funnier that for the first time we saw each other only when we had already decided to live together. I know

page 14



PROSPECTS FOR RUNNING THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN 2023: UKRAINIAN POINT OF VIEW

Republication of the article with the forecast of the war progress from Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Valerii Zaluzhnyi and First Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Ukrainian Supreme Council (VR) on National Security, Defense and Intelligence Mykhailo Zbrodskyi.

As understood by the absolute majority of military experts and analysts today, the large-scale war unleashed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has long been beyond the concept of a local conflict of medium intensity. This applies to the spatial indicators, the number of forces involved, and the convincing list of weaponry and other high-tech equipment inherent in this military confrontation.

How long will the war last?

A major question that is being raised is how long the said conflict will continue. After all, in no way it fits into the timeframe of the announced Russian "blitzkrieg" or that of active hostility phases in any of the wars waged in the early 21st century. In any case, the war has been lasting for months already. And there are many reasons to believe that it is not going to end anywhere within 2022.

In this regard, it is natural to look into the prospects for the next year and go beyond simple predictions and assumptions. Such outlook should be totally practical. Namely, how far should Ukraine's military ambitions extend? Also, as a logical derivative of this question, what help exactly does the Armed Forces of Ukraine need from partners for the coming year 2023?

It is quite logical that the very search for answers to the questions posed, besides a fascinating theoretical discussion, has a completely utilitarian side to it. For a limited number of military and civilian officials, such research comprises a major part of their professional duties. It is worth adding that for most of them, such issues are essentially about a clear responsibility for defending their country, and ultimately for defining its fate.

It can be assumed that these studies have already been reflected in several state-level guidelines and doctrines. For obvious reasons, dissecting them is beyond this article's scope. It is suggested only to consider the main evaluations in relation to the questions mentioned and put forward a version of the relevant answers.

Given that the aggressor holds a strategic initiative, it is clever enough to start off with a description of the situation in which the Russian side is likely to find itself. The tentative lines of contact are already allowing us to predict the limits of Russia's ambitions regarding further advances into Ukraine.

What are the likely goals Russia will set to pursue?

Certain operational prospects are visible in the Izyum and Bakhmut areas. Reaching the administrative border of Donetsk region can be seen as a probable end goal of Russia's efforts. The prospect of advances in the Zaporizhia direction looks even more attractive to the enemy. It would ensure further northward action, allowing to pose a direct threat of capturing the cities of Zaporizhia and Dnipro, which will in turn lead to the Ukrainian side losing control over a large part of the country's Left Bank (of the Dnipro River – ed.). Revisited plans to gain control of Kyiv and the threat of renewed invasion from the



territory of the Republic of Belarus cannot be ruled out either.

But further advancement in the direction south of the river Buh from the operational bridgehead on the right bank of the Dnipro River opens up the most opportunities. Success in the South, provided it is used quickly and faithfully, can have a double effect. On the one hand, the prospects of mastering Mykolaiv and Odesa are quite real. On the other hand, the creation of a threatening direction towards Kryvyi Rih, and in the future – a threat to the central and western regions of Ukraine.

We will deliberately not refer to the conditions under which the Russian Federation will be made to implement such a possible plan. At the same time, we will not ignore the entire range of related strategic and even global problems for Russia. We can mention international isolation and partial economic pressure in the form of international sanctions, difficulties with general mobilization and the lack of modern weapons and equipment, which will only become more acute with time.

In addition to the purely military, this nature of strategic actions in the East and South of Ukraine will bring the Russian Federation additional political and economic dividends. Among them are ensuring the security of the self-proclaimed republics and the logical, albeit belated completion of the so-called "special operation", preventing Ukraine's access to the Black Sea, control over a key element of the country's energy system – the South Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plant, etc.

Why is the Crimea a key factor, but not the only one?

It is easy to conclude that the basis of such promising success in the South and, to some extent, in the East, in the territorial sense, is reliable defense and preservation of control over the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Indeed, Crimea was and remains the basis for lines of communication on the southern strategic flank of Russian aggression. The territory of the peninsula allows for the deployment of significant groups of troops and supplies of material resources. Finally, Crimea is home to the main base of the Black Sea Fleet and a network of airfields for conducting airstrikes on almost the entire depth of the territory of Ukraine. Some analysts are inclined to believe that it is control over the territory of the Crimean peninsula that is the center of attraction for Russian forces in this war.

However, when addressing the situation in which the Armed Forces of Ukraine will probably find themselves in 2023, everything doesn't seem so unambiguous anymore. In fact, for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the situation will represent a complex

combination of the existing position of the contact line, the available resources and the set of combat-ready troops, and, obviously, finding the strategic initiative in the hands of the enemy.

At the same time, continuing this logic, we will express strong reservations about the formation of the contact line from the point of view of the Ukrainian side. Its contours have an extremely unfavorable configuration again in the Izyum and Bakhmut directions. The enemy's significant wedges constrain any operational maneuver for the Ukrainian troops and require, in fact, a double set of forces to contain it. This is especially acutely felt due to the lack of means of artillery/rocket systems and anti-aircraft defense.

The situation in the South and East does not look better either. The threat of enemy advance in the direction of Zaporizhia has already been mentioned. In addition, the danger of the enemy developing a partial success from the Huliaipole direction does not disappear, which, under certain conditions, could create a threat of encircling the entire group of Ukrainian troops in the East. The presence of the enemy's operational bridgehead on the right bank of the Dnipro River requires additional efforts to prevent its expansion.

Counter attacks by the Ukrainian army: what is needed for this?

The only way to radically change the strategic situation is, without a doubt, to launch several consecutive, and ideally simultaneous counterattacks by the Armed Forces of Ukraine during the 2023 campaign. It is unnecessary to emphasize separately their purely military and their political and informational significance. At the same time, the issue of their organization and implementation needs more attention.

So, what forces and means are needed for this? If we consider the 2023 campaign as a turning point, then for consideration we need to return to the identification of the center of gravity for the Russian Federation in this war. After all, only an effective influence on the enemy's center of gravity can lead to changes in the course of the war.

Provided that such a center of gravity is defined as control over the Crimean peninsula, it is logical to assume planning for 2023 an operation or a series of operations to seize the peninsula. Such planning should provide, first of all, for the availability of the necessary set of troops. And we are not talking about military units and formations of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which are already operating on the 2,500 km front from Kherson to Kovel.

The preparation of an offensive campaign requires the creation of one or more operational (operational-strategic) formations consisting of ten to twenty combined military brigades – depending on the plans and ambitions of the Ukrainian command. In the situation that is forming, the aforementioned can only be executed by replacing the main types of weapons used by already existing brigades with modern ones provided by Ukraine's partners. Separately, the need to obtain from partners an additional number of missiles and ammunition, artillery systems, missile systems, means of electronic warfare, etc. should be highlighted. All this will require the consolidation of efforts of all partner countries of Ukraine, over a long time period and involving significant financial expenses.

Strictly speaking, all of the above directly depends on the available resources and only on them. And if the situation with the number of personnel will probably look quite good for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the same cannot be said about heavy weapons and ammunition. But, in any case, in the presence of political will, prior and well-thought-out planning, using the production base and reserves of the leading countries of the world, the creation and proper equipment of such a group as part of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is absolutely realistic.

But the outlined approach to defining the tasks of the 2023 military campaign for the Armed Forces of Ukraine seems too one-sided.

If the invader even loses the Crimea?

So, we are once again forced to return to the identification of the center of gravity of the enemy by the Ukrainian side. Let's leave aside the legitimacy of linking the concept of "center of gravity" to a certain area or region at a strategic level. Note only that that it is the source of moral and physical power, strength and resistance – what Clausewitz called "the concentration of all power and movement on which everything depends...", the point on which all our energy should be directed". Let's assume that the Armed Forces of Ukraine achieved complete success in the 2023 campaign and took control of the Crimean peninsula.

It is difficult to overestimate the

Remove Russia's UN veto power! According to Article 23 of the UN charter, Russia is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Civic Hub asks Antonio Guterres and the UN DGACM either exhibit documents certifying the Russian Federation's membership in the UN or bare Russia from the UN.

You can support the petition here:

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extremely positive political and informational significance of such a strategic success. However, the military significance of such a victory can be assessed in a different way. The Russian Federation loses a base for the Black Sea Fleet, an airfield network, a significant amount of stockpiles of material resources and, most likely, a significant amount of personnel and equipment. Simultaneously, nothing can significantly prevent the painful but quite possible transfer of the Black Sea Fleet to the Novorossiisk naval base on the eastern coast of the Black Sea, and the military presence of the aggressor in the region will be maintained along with the threat of missile strikes. The same can be assumed for Russian aviation, for example, the Primorsko-Akhtarsk airfields and Yeisk. The loss of a significant amount of supplies for the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will have only a temporary effect. Losses in personnel and equipment, at least in terms of numbers, the Russians can make up over time.

Summarizing what has been said and discussing further prospects, after 2023, we can only talk about a new stage of confrontation. Of course, with different initial data and perspectives, but again – an ongoing conflict, loss of life, consumption of resources and a completely uncertain end result.

A slightly different approach to determining the center of gravity of Russian forces and the very essence of this war is proposed.

Disproportion in capabilities of Ukraine and Russia: how to level it?

The main feature of the military confrontation with the Russian Armed Forces is not even a significant difference in the number of forces and means of the parties in favor of the Russians, and not even significant spatial indicators of the strategic operation against Ukraine. Determinant is the decisive disproportion in capabilities.

Its most revealing embodiment is the difference in the ultimate reach of the means of destruction. If for the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation it is up to 2,000 km, taking into account the flight range of air-based cruise missiles, then for the Armed Forces of Ukraine it is ac-

tually limited to 100 km by the flight range of the missiles and the depth of the location of the starting positions of the outdated OTRK Tochku Missile. Thus, since the beginning of the large-scale aggression, the means of destruction of the Armed Forces of Ukraine have a range almost 20 times smaller than that of the enemy. Translated into the language of military practice, this means that the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in the best case, can strike with outdated means of attack only at the depth of the enemy's operational rear. While the enemy is capable of inflicting pinpoint strikes on targets with impunity to the entire depth of the territory of the country.

This should be considered as the center of gravity of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation from a military point of view. As long as this situation is maintained, this war could last for years.

How to fix this?

Of course, it is impossible to instantly deprive the enemy of such a significant advantage. Considering the number and availability of resources at the disposal of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the very possibility of eliminating it completely is doubtful. But it is quite possible to oppose the enemy's ability to act in a similar way and at a similar range.

We are talking, of course, about the supply of weapons systems or certain types of ammunition with the appropriate range by Ukraine's partners to the Armed Forces. This means not only and not so much certain names, such as, for example, the MGM – 140 B missile ATACMS Block 1 A for the Himars MLRS. A comprehensive approach to the re-equipment of artillery, missile forces, tactical aviation and the Naval Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other components of their power must be applied. The discussion should be about the creation or expansion of capabilities, and not exclusively about the amount of weapons and equipment for brigades that are planned for re-equipment.

Only in this case it is possible to discuss how to influence the real center of gravity of the Russian Federation in this war. It lies in its "re-



mote" – in the understanding of most Russians – character. Thanks to this distance, the citizens of the Russian Federation do not so painfully perceive losses, failures, and most importantly – the cost of this war in all its meanings. A convincing example of the correctness of this approach in the current year is the successful efforts of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to physically transfer hostilities to the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. We are talking about a series of successful missile strikes on the enemy's Crimean air bases, first of all, on the Saka airfield. The task of the Armed Forces of Ukraine for 2023 is to make these feelings sharper, more natural and tangible for Russians and those in other occupied territories, despite their significant distance from the goals.

It's worthwhile putting the question even more broadly and ask oneself: what is the source of the confidence, readiness, and most importantly – necessity for the leadership of the Russian Federation and Russian society to support the war against Ukraine and sincerely believe in the correctness of its completion?

Apart from well-known reasons such as the desire for at least regional leadership, various kind of

"getting up from our knees" and openly imperial encroachments, which are also acceptable for average Russian, there are purely practical reasons. It refers precisely to the principles of the use of military force by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. It is expressed in an aggressive style of a war of destruction against a state which, given the level of equipment of its armed forces, will not be able to adequately act against Russian troops in response. Simply put, it is precisely the impunity that physical distance provides. This is the true center of gravity of the enemy. And we have no right to leave it without proper attention.

The picture could radically change with appropriate planning and proper work with Ukraine's partner countries. A comprehensive, with a proper long-term vision, equipping and re-equipping of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with weapon systems of the appropriate range should become this dreamed-of game-changer.

Text continues here:
<https://eventsinukraine.substack.com/p/prospects-for-guaranteeing-the-military>



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Total combat losses of the enemy

unless extended by Congress. Law-makers have not yet passed a 2023 funding bill, meaning they would likely need to pass a stopgap funding measure, allowing them more time to negotiate.

The new money would include funds for equipment, intelligence



According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24 to August 29, 2022 were approximately:

personnel – about 60,110 people were eliminated,
tanks – 2,377 units,
ACV – 4,975 units,
artillery systems – 1,405 units,
RSZV – 337 units,
air defense equipment – 176 units,
warplanes – 264 units,
helicopters – 227 units,
UAVs of the operational-tactical level – 1015 units,
cruise missiles – 246 units,
ships and cutters – 15 units,
trucks – 3,796 units,
special equipment – 131.

Biden officially asks Congress for \$11.7 billion in additional funds for Ukraine



U.S. President Joe Biden is requesting \$11.7 billion in emergency funds from Congress for Ukraine.

The request is part of a larger \$47.1 billion emergency spending package sought as the United States continues to cope with the COVID-19 and recent natural disasters affecting some states in the South.

Current financing for federal agencies will run out at the end of the 2022 fiscal year on September 30

support, and direct budgetary backing for Ukraine.

The emergency funding request also includes \$2 billion to address the impact of Russia's war on U.S. energy supplies.

The US Senate submitted a bill on recognizing Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism



U.S. senators, Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal and Republican Lindsey Graham, introduced legislation that would designate Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism. This designation would: drastically curtail defense and technology exports to Russia, significantly reduce foreign assistance and impose additional financial restrictions on Russia, and eliminate Russia's sovereign immunity in the eyes of U.S. courts, opening Russia's government to lawsuits and other civil claims from the families of victims of its state-sponsored terrorism.

"Putin has crossed every line of civilized norms during the war in Ukraine and years before," said Senator Graham. "He has engaged in state-sponsored assassinations, the Wagner group supported by Russia terrorizes the world, and the war crimes being committed in Ukraine on a daily basis shock the conscious."

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi supported the idea having said that it was "long overdue".

Poland called to expel Russia from the IAEA



Climate Minister Anna Moskwa appealed for the suspension of Russia as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) amid the country's military actions in Ukraine, especially at the occupied nuclear power plants in Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia reports Polish Press Agency.

"Poland, just as other IAEA members, are gravely concerned by the attack on the nuclear power plants and Russia's activity in Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia, including the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Exclusion Zone," said Moskwa, describing Russia's acts as "intolerable."

On the same day, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi announced the start of negotiations with US Deputy Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Bonnie Jenkins regarding the creation of a nuclear safety zone at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

Previously, the IAEA Council adopted a resolution calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of the Zaporizhzhia NPP and a ban on interference in the zone of any Ukrainian nuclear facility.

The resolution was taken with 26 votes in favor. Russia and China voted against, while Egypt, South Africa, Senegal, Burundi, Vietnam, India and Pakistan abstained.

UK programme to train Ukrainian "citizen soldiers" is expanding



The UK is significantly expanding a training programme in Britain to turn potentially tens of thousands of Ukrainian citizens into frontline soldiers to fight Russia, Sky News has learnt.

The combat course is being extended in length to five weeks from three weeks, keeping more of the training in the UK, away from the threat of Russian missile strikes – a hazard for anyone learning how to become a soldier at sites inside Ukraine.

Some 4,700 personnel have already been through the training at military bases in the north, southwest and southeast of England since it began in June, with commanders intending to continue the support for as long as Ukraine needs new troops to fight Russia's invasion.

Military instructors from eight other countries, including New Zealand, Sweden and the Netherlands, have joined with their British counterparts to provide the expanded training mission.

Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, said it demonstrated "our shared resolve to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine".

The extra two weeks will allow for more advanced training, such as trench and urban warfare, battlefield exercises, and vehicle-mounted operations in simulated combat environments. The training is being

conducted by elements from the British Army and the RAF Regiment.

The Swiss government ends issuing facilitated visas for Russian nationals.



In Switzerland, they decided to refuse Russian tourists – from September 16, the government canceled the simplified visa regime for them, and tour operators stopped accepting orders from the Russian Federation.

The decision harmonizes the visa rules of Switzerland with the visa regulations of the European Union. In the EU, the simplified visa regime for Russians is not active since September 9. Switzerland is not a part of the EU, but is a member of the Schengen Agreement. It is noted that Russians will not be rejected Schengen visas, but the procedure for obtaining an entry permit will remain unchanged. That is why, they will have to provide more documents and certificates as well as pay more fees.

In addition to travel restrictions, Switzerland is also temporarily suspending the exchange of tax information with Russia due to sanctions against the Russian Federation. This will affect the banking sector – many Russian companies had their branches in Switzerland to keep their capital there.

Currently, only Finland has not closed the land border with the EU for Russians.

Occupiers in Crimea hand summonses to at least 1,500 Crimean Tatars



Representatives of "Crimea SOS" reported that in Crimea 90% of summonses had been handed to Crimean Tatars.

On the very first day of mobilization in Crimea, they began to arrest Crimean Tatars. First of all, it concerns areas of compact housing. Summonses began to arrive to people at markets and enterprises. Now many religious practicing Muslims are afraid to go to the mosque.

Now the only way out for them is the so-called Crimean bridge. But with an internal passport of the Russian Federation, you can travel to a limited number of countries – for example, to Kyrgyzstan or Kazakhstan. And this is one of the biggest problems for some of the Crimean Tatars: they got internal passports of the Russian Federation in order to receive basic services on the peninsula: medical care, sending their children to school. But they didn't receive foreign passports of the Russian Federation, instead Ukrainian were chosen.

There are only 300,000 representatives of the nation left, this is very few,

there is a threat of assimilation. Currently, what is happening can be called a war crime under Article 51 of the Geneva Convention, which can lead to genocide. The press service of the NGO notes that the occupiers have already mobilized 60,000 inhabitants of the peninsula.

215 Ukrainian defenders were released from Russian captivity



As part of the exchange, Ukraine returned 215 of its own defenders from Russian captivity, including 108 soldiers of the "Azov" regiment, 10 foreigners and female doctors – pregnant Mariana Mamonova and Kateryna "Ptashka" Polishchuk. Viktor Medvedchuk and 55 Russian soldiers were given instead. The defenders of Azovstal had been in Russian captivity for four months. "We exchanged 200 of our heroes for Medvedchuk, who has already given all possible evidence to the investigation. And the five heroes-commanders of "Azovstal" were replaced with 55 Russian prisoners who are of no interest to us," Zelenskyy emphasized. Five commanders from Azovstal will be in Turkey. Some of them were sentenced to death by the occupiers yesterday in Saudi Arabia. "They are there with the good atmosphere, let's say, under personal President's of Turkey guarantee. All the conditions for a safe and normal life were created for them as far as it is possible. And the only one requirement that was applied to them within the framework of the exchange of prisoners of war, is a restriction and ban on returning to Ukraine while the war continues in our country with the Russian Federation," said Ombudsman Lubinets. He noted that it was this condition that made it possible to agree on the exchange and extradition to Turkey. He is not aware of any other restrictions on commanders.

Ukraine supplies Africa with the grain



As humanitarian aid, Ukraine will send a batch of grain to a number of African countries for free due to the threat of famine. This is stated in Government Resolution No. 1040 of September 16, 2022, published on the website of the Cabinet of Ministers. In total, 50,000 tons of wheat of at least grade 3 (food grade) quality will be supplied. The recipients are Ethiopia and Somalia. "According to Article 10 of the Law of Ukraine "On Humanitarian Aid", the Ministry of Internal Affairs (for the State Service for Emergency Situations) will be allocated 420 million hryvnias to reimburse the cost of wheat grain for the purpose of providing humanitarian aid," the resolution reads. Humanitarian aid will be transferred from the stocks of the joint-stock company "State Food and Grain Corporation of Ukraine". The cost of grain will be reimbursed to society by the State Service for Emergency Situations. Grain exports and their continuity are critically important for the country, both for relieving the domestic market and as a source of foreign exchange earnings.

Exhumation was finished in Izyum – 447 bodies were raised, among them many women and children



On 23 September, the exhumation of those murdered by the Russian occupiers from a mass burial was completed in the liberated city of Izyum in Kharkiv Oblast; a total of 447 bodies, including children, were exhumed. Ukrainian politician Oleksandr Klymenko commented: "The exhumation of bodies from the mass burial site in Izyum has been completed. The work continued for a week without interruption. 447 bodies of the dead were removed from the graves. Of them, 215 were women, 194 were men, and 5 were children. In addition, the remains of 11 people were found, the gender of which cannot be determined at the moment." Most of the dead have signs of violent death, and 30 – traces of torture. There are bodies with ropes on the necks, with bound hands, with broken limbs and gunshot wounds. Several men have amputated genitalia. The head of the Kharkiv regional state administration Oleh Synyehubov said that the circumstances of each person's death will also be clarified so that "their relatives and friends will learn the truth, and the murderers will be punished." He added that, unfortunately, such a mass burial is not the only one in Izyum – already found at least 3 more such places in this area, there are also burials in other liberated cities of Kharkiv region. In Izyum, Kharkiv Oblast, which was deoccupied on September 10, 146 bodies have already been exhumed, the vast majority of them are civilians. Dmytro Lubinets, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada, told reporters that they also found the burials of about 20 servicemen of the Armed Forces with their hands tied behind their backs. There were Ukrainian military found shot dead with their hands tied behind their backs. It is obvious that the dead soldiers were prisoners. Law enforcement officers believe that they were first tortured and then executed. Lubinets does not rule out that this military burial may not be the only one in the region. Later, 2 more burials were found in Izyum, one of which contains half a thousand people. According to Volodymyr Zelenskyy, entire families were tortured. Russia announced the final results of their "referendums"

UKRAINIAN NEWS



In the so-called "DPR" and "LPR" the results of pseudo-referendums were tallied. In the DPR, 99.23% of electors voted for joining Russia. In the LPR, the percentage of "positively disposed" towards the Russian leadership is 98.42%. The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that if Putin recognizes these results as not fictitious, then they will have nothing to talk about further. Not only Donetsk and Luhansk regions claim to be annexed, but also parts of Zaporizhzhya and Kherson regions. Pseudo-referendums lasted from September 23 to 27. In international law there is no prescribed legality or prohibition of referendums on occupied lands. However, Article 2 The UN Charter clearly indicates a violation in case of annexation of these territory. According to the residents' words, they are forced to vote not only for themselves, but also for their relatives and neighbors. Even for those who have already left the occupation. In the captured Enerhodar, a mass-production was exposed, imported by Russia for the demonstrative holding of the referendum. The USA is now preparing new sanctions against the Russian Federation in response to the referendums. And the press secretary of the White House Karine Jean-Pierre said that they will never recognize occupied Ukrainian territories by Russia. "We, together with our allies and partners, are ready to impose additional rapid and serious economic costs on Russia in response to these (pseudo-referent-thoughts – ed.) actions that we're seeing now, if they're going to move toward annexation," she said. "Conducting "referendums" in regions where there is no stability, where the population has not returned, is meaningless and is only intended to legitimize the illegality of Russia's actions. And that unacceptable," says the co-chairman US Helsinki Commission, Democratic Senator Ben Cardin. And Great Britain has already announced 92 sanctions, supporting Ukraine.

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UKRAINE ACTION SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, DC



Myroslav Grekh

In September of this year, on the 18th-20th, a summit was held in Washington with representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora, who are actively engaged in defending the interests of Ukraine, volunteer work with the US Congress to determine further cooperation and support of Ukraine in the war against Russian aggression and future reconstruction. Nataliya Anon, a co-founder of Hromada was a participant of this summit as part of the Californian delegation. Our correspondent Myroslav Grekh interviewed Nataliya.

Myroslav (further **M.**): Could you tell us please what type of summits it was, who organized it, how it was held, and what goals were set?

Nataliya (further **N.**): This summit, as you have said, was called «Ukraine Action Summit» and lasted for 3 days. On September 18, all were gathered in Washington, more than 300 people who represented 35 organizations of all Ukrainians in the USA. At 2 pm we had a preparatory meeting, where leaders of the summit, namely Mykola Murskyj from Razom together with other members of his advocacy committee in Ukraine questions, told us about the priorities, meeting ethics, proper behavior, better ways to position tasks.

M.: So, was it Mr. Murskyj who came up with that summit idea and provided all the facilities?

N.: Well, it was organized by a large non-profit organization on the east coast of America called Razom. There are many members, but the head of advocacy is Mykola Murskyj, there are also Orest Mahlay, Oleksa Martiniouk, Dora Chomiak, Kate Tremont, Maryna Prykhodko, as well as representatives of other organizations, for example, Marianna Tretiak from the Union of Ukrainian Women. Many people were involved, everything was done extremely professionally. When we on Sunday, everyone arrived, then there was a preparatory session at the university in Georgetown, where we were taught, where we had the opportunity to ask questions, there we were given mate-

rials about the organizations that came and their "logos", we were told our schedule and the main directions that we would demand. Basically, meetings with congressmen and senators were organized. We were handed special "badges" and set three key priorities to talk to congressmen or senators. We were recommended first thank them for their support and help, tell personal stories, convey our pain when our family and friends die, and then ask for three main things:

1) Military support for Ukraine. Now there is still \$11.7 billion in additional aid that Biden requested from Congress. In addition, there is such a project of the law H.R.8465 "Euro-Atlantic Solidarity and Mayor Democratic Alliance Act", if it is adopted, then aid to Ukraine will go faster, Ukraine will be one of the main allies of the USA. And we asked for this fact. We also asked to give more weapons now, ATARS long-range missiles, planes, tanks, to give what Ukraine is asking for.

2) Strengthen sanctions and responsibility for their implementation and compliance. There is an important Act in the House of Representatives H.R.8568, and in the Senate it is S.4848, and if it passed, Russia would be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism. And we tried very hard to achieve this and explained why it is important. It is not only symbolic for the country to be recognized as such, but it also has practical significance, because then Russian assets in America, about 700 billion dollars, which are currently frozen, can be transferred to Ukraine. It will also be possible to sue the Russian Federation. In addition, it will completely block the ways to circumvent the sanctions that Russia is currently using. What is more, President Zelenskyy says in every speech: "Name the things by their names: terrorism is terrorism, genocide of Ukrainians is genocide." Some of the Americans are convinced that it is not advisable to do this, because then diplomatic relations with Russia may be broken, there will be no door to negotiations when the war ends. But, in fact, we consider it just runaround. Rus-

sia behaves like a terrorist, and it should be recognized as such. USA is the country, where everyone follows the law here. If the laws say that Russia should be on this list, then it should be there without any exceptions. We also asked for the adoption of the draft law H.R.1205, which recognizes Russia's war against Ukraine as genocide. In our Californian delegation, which consisted of 30 people and was the largest, there was an American of Jewish origin, Ihor Tregub, who, by the way, joined Hromada and will conduct advocacy work. He spoke from his personal experience: "I was born in Kyiv, I am a Jew, my relatives died in the holocaust, and the things I see happening now in Ukraine from the Russian side reminds me of the 39th year: how Jews were killed then, so Ukrainians are being killed now. And America must respond to this and call things by their names." We gave them such a document, a study by the New Line Institute, a large strategic institution in America, which proves that all the documented crimes committed by the Russian occupiers on the territory of Ukraine are subject to the definition of "genocide" under the terms of the Convention on Genocide. And all countries that are signatories to this Convention, have a responsibility to oppose and stop this destruction of the people. This fact is proven and documented, and now the American government must approve it at its legal level.

3) We asked for financial support for Ukraine, because its economy is destroyed, GDP has fallen by 45 percent, and the budget needs 5 billion to cover expenses every month. And we asked that these 11.7 billion dollars of aid be allocated as soon as possible, and also, when Russia is recognized as a sponsor of terrorism, then it will be possible to transfer all the assets of the occupiers, which are currently frozen, to Ukraine. These are the main 3 directions, according to which we worked

On Monday evening, the Razom organization hosted an interesting event: we gathered together at the Hilton hotel, located near the Congress, and held a discussion. Many tables were organized in different directions, for example, how to organize protests in occupied lands, how to raise money for the needs of the military and charitable organizations, how to work with the media during the war, provide humanitarian and medical aid, how to prepare for winter, etc. At each table, there was a group of people who were discussing all these questions and you could go from table to table. And at the end, one person from the table got up and spoke about the flow of the conversation and the conclusions. This provided an opportunity for all activists here in the USA, not only Ukrainians – there were many Americans as well – to express themselves. In particular, there was one American with us in the Californian delegation who openly said: "I am not Ukrainian, I have nothing to do with Ukraine, I do not have any relatives or friends, but I am here because I understand what fear is being done, and I aim to activate the American government, to tell my children, who are now 15 and 17 years old, when they ask in 10 years why America didn't do anything, so that I can at least answer them: I went, I tried, and I'm raising you so that you will do something." And it had a certain effect when you heard such things at a meeting with senators. Many people talked about their troubles: how their friends died, how their relatives lived in the occupation. And such personal stories were impressive, we saw it in the eyes of senators and assistants working with

them at the legislative level. It struck them that such horrors can be perpetrated in our time. On Tuesday, the organizers held a kind of party near the senators' offices, where all the participants of the summit could communicate with each other and with government officials. It was well organized. And on the first day, on Monday, there was such a moment when everyone gathered on the steps to the Capitol with Ukrainian flags, the representative of the Chamber from New Jersey, Mr. Tom Malinowski, spoke before us because many Ukrainians are living there. He told about all his initiatives, that he is on the side of Ukraine and will promote all issues so that Ukraine defends not only its freedom but the principles of democracy and liberty in the whole world.

M.: Got it. How did you work: were you divided into groups or did you go as a whole delegation?

N.: We split into groups. For example, our delegation was divided into Northern and Southern California, and there was a schedule of meetings (where, when and with whom we meet according to the states), and when the meetings coincided in time, we decided who went where. Each group chose a leader, a note taker, a photographer, and we went to meet with senators and representatives.

M.: And how many meetings did you have?

N.: 140 meetings were held over two days. And the group where I was, took part in 8 meetings.

M.: And there, at the meetings, were all these questions asked?

N.: Yes. And they left such a card with a request to vote for this and that, to support laws that will help Ukraine.

M.: And will it give any effect, in your opinion?

N.: I believe that must give. Firstly, everyone saw how many Ukrainians were walking around with these badges, with Ukrainian flags. We simply flooded all the houses of Congress and the House of Representatives. I think it should affect when so many people come.

M.: And was there anybody from Ukraine?

N.: Yes. People came from Ukraine. I can't remember all of them, but I saw the singer Ruslana. There was a famous Ukrainian scout Maria Berlin-ska, there were two Lithuanians who fought on our side, there was an American who had been at the front for six months. There was a touching delegation: a woman with her father, who is 91 years old, and her son, who is 13 years old. They are Lithuanians. And my dad, when he was still a child, fled from Soviet terror to Germany, but ended up in a concentration camp there. When he was released, he was 17 years old and weighed only 90 pounds. Now they live in America. When he heard about this war, he said: "I have to do something." And this family: a woman, a grandfather and a 13-year-old son weave bracelets for soldiers. There was another American woman who brought a child's slide from Irpen, completely riddled with bullets. And she wants to hand it over as an exhibit to an American museum. These were all sensual stories. In addition to Ukrainians, there were people of various nationalities at this summit, who are not related to Ukraine in any way, but they went and asked to support and help Ukraine. In my opinion, this summit has become an important event, both in the life of the Ukrainian diaspora and in the life of the whole of America, and it will undoubtedly bear its fruits.

M.: Well, thank you for this sincere dialogue, I wish you succeed in your volunteering and inspiring work. Glory to Ukraine!

N.: Glory to the heroes!

ACROSS THE OCEAN TO STUDY

Lisa Hots

What is a volunteer movement? It is something significant in the present world, something that gives hope for a bright future, let kindness still have a place on this planet. And who are volunteers? Probably, the kindest and most sincere people that I am acquainted to. These are the same superheroes from Marvel Comics who are ready to sacrifice everything for peace, safety, and well-being. These are people who are not interested in your money, and their hearts are always open to others.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the volunteer movement began to gain even greater momentum not only in my homeland but also around the world. Thousands of people with kind souls and loving hearts began to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of war, as well as open funds, non-profit organizations, shelters and schools.

So, what am I talking about?

Recently, the Hromada team and I heard a great story about wonderful ladies from America who helped 10 Ukrainian students to move to the United States, namely to Pacific Union College in Agwing, CA. So, we wanted to know more information about it and decided to interview Jennifer Klingbeil, the founder of PUC: Ukrainian Mission Project, and Maria Haug, her colleague, and friend.

Well, what did we manage to learn?

Jennifer Klingbeil was born in the U.S. in California, her mother is a Ukrainian who has been helping the Ukrainian people throughout her life. She was a founder of many schools and churches both in America and Ukraine. Therefore, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of my



country, Jennifer realized that could not stand aside. At first, she donated funds to help Ukrainians but later understood that it was not enough, and a few months later on 24.02.2022 decided to found a wonderful project called "PUC: Mission Ukraine Project".

Maria Haug was also born in California, USA. At one time she worked as a military translator in German, French, and Russian. In 1993, she had an opportunity to visit Kyiv, only for one day, but according to the words of Maria, she will remember it for the rest of her life. Since the first days of the war in Ukraine, she has been helping Ukrainians: she has been booking a room in Romny, Sumy re-

gion, through Airbnb for 6 months, and since the end of April she has been actively studying Ukrainian with a Ukrainian teacher from Lviv via Preply – these are two ways Americans can send money directly to Ukrainians. Maria Haug met Jennifer through her daughter and learned about this project at the same time. Without hesitation, she decided that she had to involve and help Ukrainians.

"PUC: Ukrainian Mission Project", the idea of this project is to lend a helping hand to Ukrainian youth who were temporarily displaced due to the war. It directly cooperates with PUC, Pacific Union College, which means

that 50% of the education cost is covered by the college and the other 50% is covered by donations.

And recently Maria and Jennifer were able to help 10 Ukrainian students aged from 18 to 24 to move to the United States to study. Yes, this move takes quite a long time. It requires about 3 months to complete the paperwork and to prepare for the flight, of course, all this work is taken care of by PUC and is completely free of charge. All students will live in Napa Valley, in the college dormitory, they will be given 3 meals a day, books, supplies and everything they need. In addition, all people-in-need will be provided with assistance in learning English in order to eliminate further problems that may arise on this basis. And in the future, each of them will sit an English exam. The whole process of studying at the college will last for about 4 years, depending on the profession, and after finishing undergraduate program, students will be able to do an internship and then receive a Master's or Doctorate degree.

Currently, two students have already arrived in California and their studies will begin in a week, two more will come in a few weeks and the rest is going to join the college in January. The most popular faculties among our youth are visual design, faculty of foreign languages, and IT.

In total, about 17 Ukrainian students have already been assisted and in the future, they will try hard to help as many as it is possible, as Jennifer notes.

Therefore, it does not matter how far people are from each other, what nationalities they are of, and how much money is on their card. If you have an open heart and a powerful wish – everything is possible! Let's achieve the victory together!



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FANTOM IS A SYNONYM TO THE LIFE IN RUSSIA

Olesia Boklah

You can't build your happiness on someone else's misfortune... A month ago, the Russians were rejoicing over the newly captured territories and denied any involvement of the Russian community in shelling of Ukraine and mass casualties. And now they are running away from the "mobilization" tent in panic.

It is much more ironic that the government itself does not know what to do with the mobilized, except to send them into a fist fight or count on their stubbornness. Trainings and the search for the source of the la-test weapons were not discussed in connection with the mobilization at all. The Kremlin wanted to distract the people from the topic of the exchange of captured defenders of Mariupol. And even here, the idea of the Moscow elite turned out to be immature. But the Russian government took a step further into the abyss: they decided to motivate families to bury their breadwinners with gifts in the form of cars. Really luxurious – ones from the "Moskvich" factory.

But what surprises me the most: there are many willing to glorify the Russian Federation and shout in support of the idea to return the empire, but when the moment comes to win back this idea with a deed, everyone immediately hides. Unless some ta-vern lover will agree for a bottle of "vodka". Moreover, Russians are kidding of each other: for instance, in Tyumen, esotericists sold pro-

tection candles to naive people. Stars are also caught up. Seeing our singers, TV presenters and actors with guns in their hands, behind the round-the-clock distribution of humanitarian aid, Russians choke with envy and do not miss the opportunity to write a "kind" comment to their idols under glamorous photos. And they have nothing to answer, because, in fact, there is an emptiness and a thin veil of fear for their skin behind the words "my best friend is President Putin".

As a part of the "friendship demonstration" series, the peak of my shocks is a shot military commissar in the Irkutsk region. On the one hand, I have too sensitive soul to extol the incense of crime. On the other hand, I want to "give a medal" for courage. However, unfortunately, even such radical methods will not affect the thinking of the national leaders of the aggressor country.

And now I am sure: Russians have never been fraternal people, not only with Ukrainians, but also among themselves. Their second problem is the lack of any benefit, purpose in the attacks on Ukraine and insufficient desire for freedom to stop it. So, in the first months, the occupiers were blinded by the illusion of better lives. But as a result, they received only deterioration and shame. And now they can't even go to the rally because there is a big threat of immediately going to the epicenter of the battles.

After such patriotism, the rulers have nothing to do apart from sending summonses to a cancer patient and a



wheelchair user. And then, having lost hope for the destruction of one nation, begin to condemn another to death.

Everyone must dance to the tune of Putin's nerves. You didn't want to kill – get a deprivation of liberty, You miss your relatives – go to prison, you decided to give up the Internet – consider that you agreed to become a member of the front (this is about sending summonses via the websites of state services).

The situation with mobilization is more similar to the authorities' decision to commit mass suicide. But it is unlikely that it is because of shame, and that everyone who was affected by it agreed. And those who survive after the war will be killed by the police at the protests.

By contrast, our commanders use the tactics of rational distribution of troops, moral support, and the collection of reserves – not cannon fodder. Analyzing the course of events in Russia, when Putin doesn't care even for the opinions of the generals, I would note that, in principle, we can just wait. But we are indomitable people, we are not used to having everything handed on a silver platter.

And we must make sure that every effort is paid to prevent arbitrariness, the involvement of residents of the occupied territories in Russian army units.

I hope that after the war, our fighting zeal will be transferred to scientific potential and creative ideas.

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[NOTES for September]
the beginning is on page 1

delayed annexation. However, the Kremlin retreated from the classic Crimean scenario. In 2014, Russian troops controlled almost the entire territory of Crimea and entered the administrative borders of the autonomy. It is obvious that Moscow wanted to achieve the same goal with the "people's republics" of Donbas and other occupied territories. Nevertheless, until today, Russian troops control most of the territory only in the Luhansk and Kherson regions, and even here they are losing ground in several settlements. For six months, Russian troops did not manage to enter the administrative borders of the Donetsk region, although this was an officially announced reason to attack Ukraine. In the Zaporizhzhia region, the occupiers do not control not only most of the territory but also the regional center. And, nevertheless, Putin decided to hold "referendums", although the annexation of territories after their holding creates a completely new situation: from the point of view of the Russian leadership, the war will take place already on the territory of the Russian Federation. This, of course, on the one hand, increases opportunities for blackmail, for example, for threats to use nuclear weapons. And, on the other hand, the loss of any territory will look completely different than positional battles on the territory of another state – Ukraine or even the "DNR". And, in addition, the annexation of territories on the Ukrainian mainland will lead to the fact that Crimea will lose its "exceptional status" of "sacred" land for Russians. Now even a Putin supporter cannot fail to notice that there was nothing "exceptional" about the annexation of Crimea in 2014 – Vladimir Putin simply grabbed what he

could grab. The fact that Vladimir Putin wants to hold captured territories and occupy new ones with the help of mass mobilization (we still do not know how many Russians he is going to put under the gun, 300,000, according to the statement of the Minister of Defense of Russia Sergei Shoigu, or a million, according to the testimony of "Novaya Gazeta. Europa") says not about the success, but the failure of the special operation. After all, the troops sent by Putin to the war should have long ago captured the entire Donbas and the south, destroyed the Ukrainian government, and created a puppet regime in Kyiv. And now there is no access to the administrative borders of the regions, we have to start mobilizing and deal with the exchange of the main lobbyist of Russian interests in Kyiv, Viktor Medvedchuk, who, probably, Putin would like to see in the most important positions in the puppet administration. Of course, there are still many anxious months ahead. But today these are indicators of fiasco. And at the same time, indicators of the "popularity" of Putin's war among Russians, who are running away from the country in all possible directions. It is clear, however, what caused such Putin hysteria. This is primarily the successful counteroffensive of the Ukrainian troops in the Kharkiv region, which once again demonstrated that while Vladimir Putin puts on the mask of the worldwide "doctor of evil" and tries to threaten the Europeans with a cold winter and the apocalypse, the Russian army fails to implement the political plans of the head of the state. Control over part of the territory of the Kharkiv region was strategically important for Putin: it is not by chance that the Russians created their military administration for several occupied districts. First, the



Kharkiv region was "next in line" to join the Russian Federation after the already mentioned four regions of Ukraine. And, secondly, Russian generals used the occupied part of Kharkiv Oblast for an offensive in Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions. And symbolism, of course: Kharkiv was the first capital of Soviet Ukraine, from this city occupied the Bolsheviks launched their attack on Kyiv – at that time more successful than Putin's attack. The loss of a bridgehead and the disobedience of a symbol is a double whammy. And, of course, a serious blow to Russian propaganda is the fact that in the liberated cities, the Ukrainian military hears cries of residents who survived months of occupation and are happy for their countrymen. And they find new burials that again remind of Bucha, for example, in Izyum. Putin began to take revenge immediately after the liberation of Kharkiv Oblast. The strikes on Kharkiv and Kryvyi Rih showed that he is trying to turn Ukraine into a desert. He needs the territory, not the population. Why? First, to prove that anyone who disobeys the Russian ruler must be "punished." Secondly, for

the success of the "special operation", which, in Putin's view, simply cannot end in his inglorious defeat. Thirdly, the disloyal population has no value for the Russian president has. In occupied regions, after the referendums, the hunt for men to fight the Ukrainians with the help of the Ukrainians themselves will begin to ensure the self-destruction of the nation. That is why it is so important that this criminal war ends as soon as possible with a Ukrainian victory. In their recent article on the development of the war in 2023, the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian army, General Valerii Zaluzhnyi, and the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada, General Mykhailo Zaborodskyi, say that the aggressor still has significant military potential – and now it will be strengthened by mobilization, but indicate that the enemy's plans may be changed exactly by the counterattacks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. But for the counterattacks, a stable supply of Western weapons is needed. And for the increase of these supplies we must fight.



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CANDLELIGHT VIGIL REPORT

Dear friends! On September 10, we marked 200 days of the genocidal war against Ukraine and its people, honoring the memory of the fallen Heroes and innocent civilians of Ukraine.

During the event both children and adults lighted candles, were marching with banners, crying and praying. This evening has become a moment of the unity and realizing the value of the human life and the responsibility before those who sacrificed their lives to give us a chance to prolong living with dignity.

Thanks to everyone who had the opportunity to join this important event and support the Heroes! Glory to dead, strength and health to those who are alive!



[Kharkiv offensive and nuclear...] the beginning is on page 1

Consequences of the Kharkiv operation:

1. The release of about 150,000 people who were under Russian occupation. Freed from alleged murders, sadism, torture, deportations, humiliation. The most important thing for Ukrainians to compete for its human lives, that is why we begin the list with the human dimension.

2. Exemption of more than 8,500 square meters of the Ukrainian territory. About 400 settlements of the Kharkiv region, in particular the city of Barvinkove, Vovchansk, Izyum, Kupiansk (right bank). The fight is for both people and territories. To every Ukrainian meter that is under the heels of the occupiers.

3. A colossal enthusiasm in Ukrainian society. In modern war, moral and ideological state and mood have no less important, and perhaps the most important meaning. Therefore, we will consider the victory of the Kharkiv operation to a large extent from psychological point of view. Ukrainians, according to all sociological surveys, want the liberation of all Ukrainian territories, including Crimea. They want and believe. The success of the Kharkiv operation strengthened this belief.

4. Ukrainian military success. The Armed Forces of Ukraine have proven that they are capable of analyzing, planning, preparing, and successfully conducting a full-scale military operation. Unanimously, the success of the Armed Forces became an example that motivate and develop further.

5. Political success. The state leadership is above the military leadership, so the success of the Armed Forces is also a victory for the political rulers of the Armed Forces. The political statements of the President and the rest of the leadership that Ukraine will fight until the liberation of every meter of Ukrainian territory are supported by a concrete example of the successful Kharkiv operation. Unequivocal political success.

6. Colossal rise in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The army felt that it could not only defend itself but also successfully liberate territories previously occupied by Russia. The Ukrainian army is eager to fight, it is motivated and progressive.

7. Realization by the societies of allied countries that Ukraine can defeat Russia. Western societies for the most percentage support Ukraine and Ukrainians, make colossal efforts to support refugees and bear certain costs associated



with economic changes caused by the war. Nevertheless, before the Kharkiv operation, the voices of skeptics, who thought that Russia could not be defeated on the battlefield due to the ratio of its population to the population of Ukraine, were quite audible. The Kharkiv breakthrough showed Western society that Russia not only needs to be defeated but also can be so. Of course, if the necessary weapons are available. And Ukrainians have the desire and ability to win.

8. Realization by Western political elites that Russia can be defeated. Western elites are heterogeneous. Ukraine's support is also heterogeneous. In some countries it is larger, in others it is smaller. And it is the Western political elites who make decisions regarding the provision of equipment for Ukraine and the introduction of sanctions against Russia. The Kharkiv operation gave arguments to those who defend the importance of providing and increasing the supply of weapons necessary for Ukraine.

9. Demoralization of a significant part of Russian society. The fascist ideology of "Russian peace" does not assume that Russia is a weak country militarily, that its soldiers and generals do not know how to fight, and a smaller army can "kick their ass." That is why the Russian media and social networks failed to explain the retreat of the Russian army in the Kharkiv region, showed some kind of "transfer of reserves and resources" to Izyum and were forced to regretfully state the escape of the Russian occupiers from there. Mental damage.

10. Failure of the Russian army. It turned out that the Russian army can wage war only using the big reserves of Soviet equipment and shells, under the conditions of their numerical superiority. But, in terms of military tactics, the Russian army is uncompetitive and doomed to defeat.

11. Demoralization of a significant part of the Russian army. Before Russian fascist propaganda tried to drive its soldiers to slaughter, arguing with probable further victories. Now it turned out that the "act of goodwill" and the supposed escape of the occupiers from the

forest part of Ukraine (Kyiv Oblast, Chernihiv Oblast, Sumy Oblast) were no "accident", but the liberation of Ukrainian territories proceeding systematically and methodically. A demoralized army is unable to fully perform military functions. A clear psychological crisis in the occupying army.

12. The failure of the Russian agents in Ukraine. For decades, Russian agents have been entrenched in Ukrainian special services, politics, the army, etc. The number of defectors in Crimea and the Ukrainian East in 2014 is a confirmation of that. After February 24, 2022, the number of cases of outright treason decreased many times. And the Kharkiv operation proved that it is possible to plan, organize and carry out a full-scale offensive operation, and the Russian agents will not testify and will not prevent it in time. The purge of Russian spies is ongoing and will continue.

13. Fear of the "president" of Belarus. Russia has pressured and will continue to pressure the leadership of Belarus regarding not only the provision of territory for the shelling of Ukraine but also the direct participation of Belarus in the war against Ukraine. Kharkiv operation showed that the entry of Belarus into the war could lead to the opposite consequences – the advance of Ukrainians towards Minsk. Lukashenko is afraid of a popular uprising inside the country, and seeing Ukrainian tanks in the center of Minsk, which could provoke such an uprising, is a "night terror" for him. As long as the emotions from the Kharkiv operation continue, the Belarusian leadership will not dare to commit direct aggression.

14. Nominally "neutral" countries will think. Russia enjoys the support of nominally "neutral" countries. These countries (for example, China) have not joined the Western sanctions, through them goods under sanctions go to Russia. Russia can rely on the supply of weapons or their components from their side. The Kharkiv operation proved Russia's military backwardness and weakness. So the "neutral" countries will have a question: what is the point of playing along with the side that cannot win this war? The fact that banks in Turkey and Kazakhstan began to stop servicing Russian "Mir" cards is a consequence of the Kharkiv operation and not just a warning from American financial institutions. So the Kharkiv operation dealt a colossal blow to Russia's aggressive reputation, throwing off the mask of "invincibility" from the Kremlin.

Conclusions: the lightning-fast successful Kharkiv operation psycholo-

gically strengthened Ukrainian society, strengthens the prospects of Western support, and demoralizes the enemy. Nevertheless, it is worth examining the consequences of the enemy's change in tactics caused by the Ukrainian success. Putin wants to go down in history with the "glory" of Herostratus, so he is ready to intensify his actions to fulfill his unchanging goals: the destruction of Ukraine as a state and the physical elimination of Ukrainians.

Several new challenges are currently evident:

1. Mobilization. Russia's army is unable to resist Ukrainian pressure, which is growing. Even after the escape of the occupiers from the "green strip", the Russian army is not able to hold the front from the Kharkiv region to the Kherson region successfully. So, Putin was forced to announce mobilization. The classified 7th paragraph of the decree does not allow to find out: there are 300 thousand, 1 million, or 1 million 200 thousand. But the protests in various regions of Russia testify that the roundups for mobilization have been launched in the widest way.

2. Increasing shelling. Out of rage after the defeat, the Russian fascists are intensifying their shelling of civilian infrastructure: from the dam in Kryvyi Rih to the use of drones previously supplied by Iran in Odesa.

3. Pseudo-referendums. The Kremlin does not even think to hide the fact that the war against Ukraine is an act of aggression. The fascist ideology of "Russian peace" involves the constant seizure of new territories. There is no question of any "expression of will" of Ukrainians in the occupied territories. The Kremlin only needs an "argument" for itself, why it occupies these territories. And the "results" are drawn. But no one in the world recognizes these "results".

4. The threat of a nuclear strike. Understanding the prospect of Russia's military defeat, Putin is ready to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine. It is popular to think of these threats as a "bluff", but I think that this is a very real threat. I don't see any reason why Putin can't do it. That is why the Ukrainian demand to the Western world (and first of all to the nuclear states) should sound like this: a guarantee of a nuclear strike on Russia in the event of such a strike on its part on Ukraine. For today, this may be the only deterrent for Putin. After all, it is worth remembering that, if Ukraine had not voluntarily given up its nuclear weapons, then, in theory, it could have taken this mission on itself.

"Ukraine will win!"

FOR KIDS

DAY AND NIGHT

*Olha Lapushena**Illustrations by Isabella Martin*

Fairies live far away in a fairyland. Each fairy has a name according to her profession. For example, a fairy who makes people laugh is called the Fairy of Laugh. There are a lot of fairies in the fairyland, and we can tell an interesting story about each of them.

I will talk about only four of them. It will be about the Dream Fairy, who induces a dream, the Awakening Fairy, who flies in mornings with the message that it is time to wake up, the Wisdom Fairy, and about a very little fairy, whose name you will learn at the end of the fairy tale.

You have probably noticed that some people go to bed early and wake up in the morning, while others go to bed very late and then cannot wake up. The former type is called larks, and the latter is called owls. This happens because the Sleep Fairy and the Awakening Fairy do not have time to fly to all the people. Nevertheless, people mostly sleep at night and wake up in the morning. Exactly how the problem of sleep and awakening was solved in the past will be discussed in this tale.

Once upon a time, both night and morning came to each person separately. If someone had a night and fell asleep, then another had a morning – and he woke up. It was very uncomfortable. Humans and fairies suffered greatly from this.

One day the Awakening Fairy couldn't stand it and accused the Sleeping Fairy of not having time to put people to sleep at the same time, that became a reason for their absence of powers to wake up in the morning. The Sleep Fairy, in turn, complained that the Awakening Fairy did not manage to wake everyone up at the same time.

They argued for a long time, quarreled a lot, and decided to ask the old Fairy of Wisdom for advice. The Fairy of Wisdom was not always old, she was once young and very beautiful. In those distant times, she was constantly mentioned because, in addition to her youth and beauty, she had a bright mind, and was extremely fair and honest. But later they began to forget about her oftener, and in her old age, the Fairy of Wisdom remained complete-



ly alone. Because of loneliness, she became angry with the whole world and turned into an evil senior. But the arguing fairies did not know this and thought that the Fairy of Wisdom had become even more powerful and intelligent over the years.

The old fairy listened carefully to them, was very happy that she could do any harm, and advised them to completely forget about people, let them decide for themselves when to go to bed and then get up. This advice seemed the most sensible to the fairies, who were exhausted of arguments. They thanked her and went home.

At this time, a little inqui-

sitive fairy was born. As soon as she learned that people live on Earth, she immediately flew to see them.

When the fairies left the people, it was daylight and everyone was busy with own affairs. Since the Sleep Fairy did not come to them, no one went to bed. People were very tired, became strict, and almost did not communicate with each other. Adults worked constantly, children constantly studied, and babies settled in kindergartens and almost forgot their parents. People could not stand such a life, gathered to consult, and decided to arrange an artificial night. They bought heavy blackout curtains and

hung them over the windows of their homes. They went to bed, but no one woke them up. People would still be sleeping like this if the little fairy hadn't intervened.

When she saw what was happening to people on the planet, she flew to the Fairy of Awakening and the Fairy of Sleep with questions. But they neither wanted to hear nor know about people, they only reported that the Fairy of Wisdom had advised them to do so. The girl asked the way to the old fairy and went to her.

The Fairy of Wisdom was not at home, and the little fairy had time to carefully look around. The girl realized that a very lonely person lives in the house: the rooms were messy, there was no food, and everything was covered with cobwebs. The little fairy decided to help the lonely Fairy of Wisdom. She put the house in order, prepared a delicious dinner, collected the most fragrant and beautiful flowers, and decorated the table with them.

When the old woman came home, she did not recognize her home. And after the little girl's promise to visit her often to help with the household and communicate, the Fairy of Wisdom was confused and cried with happiness. The girl regretfully told the old woman what had happened to the people and how they were suffering. The heart of the evil fairy melted, she admitted that she had done evil on purpose and decided to make amends for a mistake. She invited the Sleep Fairy and the Awakening Fairy to apologize for the bad advice, and gave them a different one. She proposed to divide the Earth into two parts: when one half has day, then the other has night: so that day and night constantly change places.

Since then, it's been like she had said. The Fairies of Sleep and Awakening are very pleased because now they have time to visit every person on their half of the planet. And the little fairy was given a name: the Fairy of Kindness. Sometimes all 3 fairies meet to chat, and also to visit the Wisdom Fairy. Together they drink delicious tea and feast on delicacies. During their meetings, a natural phenomenon called "White Nights" occurs on Earth.



FOR LEISURE

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HORIZONTALLY:

1. Прилад для вимірювання глибини моря, річки тощо з борта судна. 3. Письмова робота, вправа для засвоєння або перевірки грамотності, що полягає в записуванні тексту, який диктується. 7. Українське Визвольне Військо. 9. У сполученні із числівником «один» або без нього означає одноразовість дії. 10. Сукупність однорідних предметів або живих істот, розташованих одне поруч з одним, одне за одним, витягнутих в одну лінію. 11. Грунтова поверхня під водою. 12. Невеликий гризун родини полівкових, що веде напівводяний спосіб життя і має цінне блискуче густе хутро бурого кольору. 13. Представник групи ймовірно слов'янських племен, що згадуються візантійськими авторами з 4 ст. до початку 7 ст. 14. В релігії давніх єгиптян — богиня неба, дружина бога землі Геба. 16. Великий хижий звір родини котячих із короткою жовтою шерстю і довгою пишною гривою у самців. 19. Хустка або шарф, що одягають на шию. 23. Промениста енергія, що випромінюється яким-небудь тілом, сприймається зором і робить видимим навколишнє. 24. Монотонна, щоденна, однакова за змістом робота. 25. Невеликий віршований або, рідше, прозовий повчальний твір алегоричного змісту. 26. Той, хто збирає врожай, бере участь у жнивах. 27. Склянка. 28. Сильне захоплення чим-небудь; запал, завзяття. 31. Довгий мотузок із зашморгом на кінці. 34. Вівчар. 37. Вічнозелена південна чагарникова рослина родини губоцвітих, з якої добувають ефірну олію. 38. За релігійними уявленнями — місце під землею, куди потрапляють душі померлих грішників для вічних мук. 41. Місто в Японії. 44. ... П'єха (відома співачка). 47. Шкет (розм.). 48. Складні, тяжкі обставини, труднощі. 49. Встановлене найвищим органом державної влади загальнообов'язкове правило, яке має найвищу юридичну силу. 50. Український письменник, поет, публіцист, перекладач, вчений, громадський і політичний діяч. 51. Тропічна трав'яниста рослина з великим кислуватим солодким на смак делікатесним плодом, що має вигляд величезної (20-40 см) соснової шишки. 52. Вид мистецтва, що відображає життя в сценічній дії, яку виконують актори перед глядачами. 56. Звуконаслідування, що передає котяче нявкання. 58. Містечко в окрузі Грін, штат Алабама, США. 61. Московський авіаційний інститут. 62. Виразник, захисник якого-небудь світогляду, ідеології. 63. Останній правитель І династії Ранняго

царства Давнього Єгипту (бл. 2890 до н. е.). 64. Солодка страва зі збитого в піну фруктового чи ягідного сиропу з желатином або манними крупами. 65. ...-де-Жанейро. 66. Вузкий край, кромка чого-небудь. 67. Металевий значок установленого зразка на форменому кашкеті. 68. Собака-самець.

VERTICALLY:

1. Рухома покривка, дверцята, що прикривають отвір всередину чого-небудь. 2. Багато оздоблене крісло на спеціальному підвищенні — місце монарха під час урочистих церемоній у палаці. 3. Дерево-земляна оборонна точка. 4. Кудлата голова. 5. Білок м'язової тканини. 6. Велика сітка, що має форму мішка, для ловлення морської риби з невеликих суден — траулера. 7. Велика хижка неотруйна змія. 8. Остаточна чи умовна заборона, яку накладає верховна державна влада на рішення нижчого органу. 15. Вишита вставлена смуга на плечах жіночої сорочки. 17. Сцена для виступів акторів, музикантів, співаків, промовців і т. ін. 18. ... Коломиець (український театральний режисер, журналіст, поет і прозаїк, укладач підручників із мови та літератури, редактор і видавець, а також художник та виготовлювач бандур | кінець 19-го — початок 20-го ст.). 19. Велика дуже отруйна змія з плямами на шії, що водиться в Азії та Африці. 20. Прокладка під гайку або головку гвинта, яка має форму плоского кільця. 21. Апостол від сімдесяти, учень апостола Павла. 22. Столиця Туреччини. 29. Промислове, переважно велике, підприємство. 30. Запалення слизової оболонки носа, що супроводжується слизово-гнійними виділеннями, іноді чиханням. 31. Аналого-цифровий перетворювач. 32. Кухар на кораблі. 33. Неопізнаний літаючий об'єкт. 34. Ману... (французький виконавець, музикант іспанського походження). 35. Настінний свічник або держак для лампи. 36. Ізраїльська естрадна співачка й автор пісень, разом з Мірою Авад представляла Ізраїль на Пісенному конкурсі Євробачення 2009 року в Москві з пісню «Має бути інший шлях». 39. Конвой, охорона, що супроводжує кого-, що-небудь. 40. Лагодження пришиванням латок. 42. Низький буфет для зберігання посуду й столової білизни. 43. Невелика акула, що живе в Чорному морі. 44. Рослина або тварина, не характерна для даної місцевості, а лише акліматизована в ній. 45. Найдрібніша світна частинка тіла, що горить, жевріє. 46. Прем'єр-міністр Іспанії з 05.05.1996 р. по 17.04.2004 р. (новий консерватизм). 53. Представник народності, яка живе в лісовій смузі Сибіру, на Далекому Сході та в Північно-Східному Китаї. 54. Металева плита на друкарському верстаті, на якій устанавлюють друкарську форму. 55. У давньоримській міфології — бог кохання, якого зображали крилатим хлопчиком з луком і стрілами. 56. Сяйво, намальоване у формі круга навколо голови або над головою, як символ святості. 57. Пластична маса жовтого чи білого кольору, яку виробляють бджоли для стільника. 58. Хокейний клуб з міста Ханті-Мансійськ, Росія. 59. Рів із земляним насипом, валом навколо чого-небудь. 60. Умова, яка забезпечує удачу, успіх у чому-небудь.

Окол. 60. Шанс.

Евек. 54. Талер. 55. Амур. 56. Німб. 57. Біск. 58. Югра. 59. 42. Серапант. 43. Катран. 44. Екзот. 45. Іскра. 46. Аснар. 53. Кок. 33. Нло. 34. Чао. 35. Бра. 36. Нва. 39. Ескорт. 40. Латання. Шайба. 21. Ераст. 22. Анкара. 29. Завод. 30. Ринт. 31. Ацт. 32. 8. Бето. 15. Уставка. 17. Естрада. 18. Авенір. 19. Кюбра. 20. 1. Ляда. 2. Трон. 3. Дзот. 4. Кудла. 5. Актин. 6. Трал. 7. Удав.

Vertically:

67. Кокарда. 68. Лес. 58. Юто. 61. Маї. 62. Ідеолог. 63. Каа. 64. Мус. 65. Ріо. 66. Руб. 59. Юта. 49. Закон. 50. Франко. 51. Аманас. 52. Театр. 56. Нав. 48. 37. Лаванда. 38. Пекло. 41. Осака. 44. Едіта. 47. Шкетик. 48. Байка. 26. Живар. 27. Стакан. 28. Азарт. 31. Аркан. 34. Чабан. 13. Ант. 14. Нут. 16. Лев. 19. Кашне. 23. Світло. 24. Рутина. 25. 1. Лот. 3. Диктант. 7. Ува. 9. Раз. 10. Рад. 11. Дно. 12. Ондатра.

Horizontally:

ANSWERS:

EASY LEVEL

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		9		4		8		
2	8		7	5		4		9
9	3	7				5		
6				8				7
	2		1		7			

MEDIUM LEVEL

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			7				4	5	9
						1	7	4	3
2									8
		1	4	9		2			

7	3	1	4	9	8	2	6	5
2	4	5	7	3	6	9	1	8
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9	5	8	6	7	4	1	3	2
1	2	4	9	5	3	8	7	6
5	9	6	2	4	7	3	8	1
8	7	3	1	6	9	5	2	4
4	1	2	3	8	5	6	9	7

5	2	8	1	3	7	9	4	6
6	1	4	5	8	9	3	2	7
9	3	7	4	6	2	5	1	8
2	8	1	7	5	6	4	3	9
7	6	9	5	2	4	3	8	5
3	4	5	6	1	8	7	6	2
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8	5	2	3	9	1	6	7	4
1	9	3	6	7	4	2	8	5



**[The spirit of a warrior ...]
the beginning is on page 1**

that it sounds as one of those insane stories that can be found sometimes on the World Wide Web. Nevertheless, in our case such a story came true. We felt almost immediately that we had known each other for the entire life, just had not been seeing each other for a certain period of time, and got together again.

When we met, he had already returned from ATO. He rarely talked about the war, because he probably wanted to protect me from what he saw and experienced. He didn't even show his awards: I saw them by accident when he was going to the parade on May 9 in 2020. Once I called him a "hero" – and he reacted completely differently than I guessed. "Never call me a hero. Heroes are those who gave their lives." It seems to me that even now he would not consider himself a hero.

After some time, Sasha began to say that he wanted to have a child. He said that after the anti-terrorist operation, his outlook on life changed radically – he wanted to make his mark on this earth. Even if something happens to him, his child will live, and with him/her a part of his soul will be. He was looking for a job in the civilian world. But it was still not possible without the army – Sasha got a job in a military hospital in Pechersk. In the fall of 2021, he left the hospital and opened his massage parlor because we didn't have enough money to survive, but then he decided he wanted to do something else. He found a job at a rehabilitation center and completed an internship. It only remained to pass the exam. The exam was scheduled for the morning of February 24.

We did not hear how the war started – it was still quiet on our side. I woke up at 9 in the morning and saw missed calls from Sasha and a message that a full-scale war had begun. He returned home on foot and with no result: the door of the center was closed.

Soon, "Hrady" were working near us – there were constant flashes outside the window, and the building was shaking so that it seemed that we would be buried alive in the apartment. So we lived in the basement for a while: we were very lucky that it was insulated.

On the third day of the war and our life in the basement, Sasha decided to make a first aid station. Various medicines, insulin, diapers, mixtures for baby food, and many other things were brought there, which Sasha and his assistants distributed in our residential complex and Kyiv bomb shelters. Even before the war, he always came to help people: there

was a case when a doctor refused to visit a small child because kid's mother had COVID-19, and Sasha simply took everything he needed and came. But soon he said that he had done all he could here, and now his place was at the front. On the day when he decided to submit documents to the Military Commissariat, I washed his military uniform, and with it, his certificate of participation in hostilities. Then I thought: maybe we shouldn't let him go? Maybe this is some kind of sign?

He could not wait until he was officially sent to the front, so he went to Irpin as a volunteer. He enthusiastically told how they saved the wounded while rockets were flying over them, how whitewash fell on their heads from the ceiling – everything with such a sparkle in his eyes, as if he was finally doing the work for which he was born. His brothers-in-arms said that Sasha always ran ahead of everyone, even though he was the youngest among them – he was only 25. While they were thinking about how to go deeper into the city, Sasha went there on foot, and the others only caught up with him. After Irpin, they managed to visit many places this spring: they carried out demining in the Kyiv region, were in the Mykolaiv region, on Zmiinyi island, underwent training in the Odesa region – dived into cold water with all their uniforms and weapons. It's scary to watch those videos where they do things that most people can't do. On May 27, he briefly returns to Kyiv to deal with the documents: until that moment he was still a volunteer. On June 1, I celebrated my birthday, but had a weekend only the next day. He joyfully showed his military card, as if it was a gift, that became an evidence that he was no longer a volunteer. And on the 3rd, he went to Severodonetsk.

On June 7, Sasha warned that there might be no communication for several days, but promised that everything would be fine. I was calm for him because there was never such a situation from which he could not find a way out; he was smart, cunning, never afraid of anything, and always stood up for justice. At 19:00 he sent me two pictures of peonies, my favorite flowers. This was his last message in life. On June 8, in the morning, my husband died.

It was artillery fire. Sasha ran to help the wounded man. He, the wounded man, and another guy died at the same time.

I wrote to him because I thought he was simply out of connection. On June 9, Sasha's friend Lyosha called me and asked if I had talked to Sasha yesterday and if Sasha had been in touch. As it turned out, Lyosha had already been aware of Sasha's death: he was called first. He decided not to tell me that Sasha was gone, because he thought: suddenly it might be just a mistake if no one had told me yet.

At lunch, I got a call and was told that Sasha had died. I don't remember well what happened next – only that I started having hysteria. I fell to my knees with the baby in my arms and screamed. I did not believe that he was already dead. This could not happen.

It just so happened that Sasha's mother called me at that moment. She is currently in the Kherson region under occupation and has not been able to contact us for a long time. I couldn't say anything to her, I just cried into the phone while she said, "What happened? Why are you crying? I can't understand what you

are saying, just say it calmly." I squeezed this terrible phrase out of me, and she didn't believe it. She told me to explain normally, that it couldn't be that her son died, and the network was lost. Her neighbors rang me back: while they were asking me questions, I heard Sasha's mother crying in the background.

On June 10, his body was brought to Kyiv. Early in the morning, I and the wives of the other two victims went to the church to convince ourselves that it was them. We sat on the pavement almost the whole day, but they did not let us in. Then Lyosha, the same friend, admitted to me that he had been allowed to enter and that I should not see what was left of my husband. That it would be better to remember him alive. The death certificate stated that he had had multiple shrapnel injuries to his neck and face, but eyewitnesses said that at least his leg had been torn off.

The boys were eulogized on June 11 in St. Michael's Cathedral – now their photos hang on the wall there. I didn't even recognize Sasha at first. I looked into the coffins during the service and did not understand where my husband was: the last time I saw him with a beard. As it turned out, Sasha shaved in Severodonetsk. His face was made up so much that he did not look like himself. But it was him. Cold, he was lying in a coffin, and at his feet was a mountain of flowers. I felt that I died with him too.

Then he was already brought home: local people came out to say goodbye to him. He was buried in the cemetery across the field because I wanted him to stay close to me.

Every time I sit down at the table, I wait for him to join. Every time I go to bed, I look forward to being able to hug him. And so with everything: in the smallest household affairs, in completely different situations. I couldn't stay in the apartment where we lived because everything reminded me of him.

He always asked for only one thing – understanding. To have his thoughts gotten by me, what is on his mind. And I couldn't. Because I did not see the horror that he saw, I did not experience what he felt. I think that only now I am really able to understand him. I thought that he would come from Severodonetsk, and I would say that I understand him better. Now I understand why he could not stay at home, but went to war. But I won't be able to tell him about it.

Sometimes he still comes alive to me in my dreams. I once had a dream where Sasha said: "They still write to me, they don't know that I'm gone. Tell them to stop." And a few days after that dream, I was given his lost phone. And indeed, there were many people who wrote to Sasha, asking what was wrong with him, why he did not respond, and whether they needed help with something. I started contacting everyone back that Sasha had died and there was no point in writing to this number because no one apart from me would read it again.

When Sasha was at home for the last time, we discussed plans for the future, and what our life would be like after the war. He wanted to open his own rehabilitation center, where he would provide psychological and physical assistance to military personnel and their families. I want to continue this case somehow because this is the thing he was passionate about, but I don't



even know where to start: I'm not a doctor and I don't have any knowledge in this area. Sasha has research papers on the topic of rehabilitation, but I can't read them because the computer is broken.

I set a goal to make sure that no one forgets my honey because he is worth being remembered for. We had our whole lives ahead of us, we dreamed, planned, and were going to raise our daughter together, upbringing her, but this damn war took everything from us. When people decide to divorce, they both take such a decision. We didn't make any decision, we wanted to be with each other for the rest of our lives, but Russia decided everything for us. And no physical things are capable of improving the mood now, because happiness, as it turned out, is not in that at all. I want to go back to those days when the biggest problem was the hustle and bustle that accompanies every family because those were the happiest years of my life.

Every day I persuade myself to live for my daughter. Sasha always wanted the best for us – I think he wouldn't like the fact that I'm still crying for him. He wanted to see me and my daughter always happy and smiling, so I will do everything in my power to ensure that Sofiyka has a carefree life. But no one can replace a child's natural father. Sofia distracts me from all sad thoughts because I want to give her everything that Sasha dreamed of: a happy and carefree childhood. She is only a year and five months old, but I am already telling her that her father was a great man who gave his life so that she, I, and all of Ukraine would live.

I am sure that she will grow up to be a strong girl who will be proud of her father, because not every child has such a dad – a hero father who loved her very much.

I found this book when I was going through his things. I knew he had been writing poems since school – even read some to me. But I did not know that he printed his collection. I can't imagine why he didn't tell about it. This copy was supposed to be sent to his brother, so I want to make a copy for myself and give the original to the rightful owner. Now I have another goal for the future: to publish this collection so that Sasha is remembered in the form of these poems. There are poems about the war, about Ukraine, about love, and about himself, but I don't know when they were written, because there are no dates here.

In one of the poems, he investigates: what is the meaning of life? To eat, drink and simply live mindlessly? Life is needed to do something meaningful. Such were his thoughts."

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FORGIVE ME MOM...

Forgive me mom for
 having left you early,
 for leaving my house
 and joining the war.
 Either I will see Ukrainian state
 free and burly
 or I will stand in front of
 the death door –
 I have no another way out
 when my dignity is at stake.
 I am sorry dad, it was your clout,
 inactivity would be
 the biggest mistake.
 I went there to let you
 take pride in your son,
 to appear worthy
 in your deep eyes.
 Forgive me God that I did a sin,
 and not one.
 Though I was not a reason of
 someone's demise.
 Forgive me, dear Lord,
 that my soul is forever lost.
 I'll be grateful if you resurrect
 my brothers-in-arms.
 Forgive me, those who got
 from me some frost.
 My nature cannot be changed
 to reveal charms.
 We were created by God
 exactly with this aim :
 for someone we are angels,
 for someone are to blame.
 But the judgement will definitely
 come upon good and evil,
 One man will look into hell,
 Another will be led to paradise
 thanks to their retrieval.
 Even if the world fell,
 the spirit of a warrior
 will be always alive.
 The dawning of the morning
 is its time to thrive!

— *Oleksandr Synelnikov*

It is difficult for all of us, very difficult. However, we will never feel any shame.

- Valerii Zaluzhnyi

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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

14 OCT
THE FEAST OF
THE MOTHER OF
GOD (POKROVA)

New academic fellowship (\$5,000 for a person) funded by UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business is available for Ukrainians academics who are interested in researching or teaching in the fields of economics and business. To apply you do not have to be in the USA.
Application links:
English – https://uiuc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1A1YzuDvcAYoVpQ
Ukrainian – https://uiuc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_29bJGJcUTMnr70y
Questions may be addressed to Mr. Gorodnichenko (EconHaas4Ukraine@berkeley.edu).

CORNISH
APPLE PIE



Ingredients:
Butter - 220 g
Sugar - 150 g
Egg of chicken - 3 pcs.
Sour cream - 1/2 cup
Wheat Flour - 250 g
Baking powder - 16 g
Vanilla sugar – 20 g
Brown sugar - 1 tbsp spoon
Apple (500-600 g, sour, solid, it’s recommended to take green) - 4 pcs.

Separate proteins from yolks and put them to the fridge.
Heat the oil to a liquid state without boiling. Sweeten. Add vanilla extract. Pour in the yolks, then sour cream. Sift together the flour well with baking powder until smooth.
In order for the proteins to turn into a thick mass with a snow-white tint, approach the cleanliness of the dishes responsibly. The container must be clean and dry. Remove proteins from the refrigerator and mix them into stable peaks, while gently stirring them into the batter. The resulting mass should be spread in the greased shape (24 sm).
Peel the apples, take off the hard middle, then thinly cut apples into slices. Place them tightly over the entire surface of the dough, with the convex side up (the more apples, the more luscious will be the pie). Sprinkle with brown sugar.
Bake for 40-50 minutes. 180 degree mode (350°F). Check readiness with a wooden stick. Take out your dessert .
To make the cake look more appetizing, you can:
-sprinkle the surface icing sugar;
-lay out crushed nuts on the surface;
-sprinkle with cinnamon.
Seasonal berries will serve as an excellent decoration, too.

Oleh Solyar



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