



DARIA OVDIENKO, *11 years old*

City of Kyiv

"On February 24, Mom and Dad decided to become volunteers. Dad helped build barricades and checkpoints, while my sister, mother, and I bought food, medicine and delivered it to our neighbor's old people. Because the shops were empty, there was almost nothing to eat. We stood in line for bread for three hours, and one loaf of bread was given to us," the war began for Darynka.

With each siren, Daria, her sister, and her mother went down to the basement and spent the night there. The little sister was crying all the time. When it was very difficult to fall asleep, the girls just lay in their mother's arms, and she sang songs or read books to them.

On March 5, a rocket hit a nearby house and windows flew through their house. "I heard

my mother talking to my father on the phone and she said that my teacher and the girl next door had died," Daria recollects.

The next day, the family was evacuated to Western Ukraine. The road was very difficult, especially for my little sister, we had to stand for 12 hours. But salvation awaited them in the new place, good people sheltered them and shared things with them.

Then, for the first time since the beginning of the war, Daria wanted to paint. In her photo - Ukraine. She cries as her mother cries. But the girl is sure that very soon they will all be able to rejoice again. After all, her father, like every defender of Ukraine, is approaching victory!

For reference

Ovdienko family:

Mother - Oksana, director of the All-Ukrainian Union of Paramedics and Coworking for Parents with Children "Zelenka", 38 years old; father - Alexander, freight forwarder and master of a furniture company, 40 years old; daughter - Daria, schoolgirl, 11 years old; daughter - Valeria, preschooler, 5 years old.

