



ANNA KALINICHENKO, *5 years old*

Gostomel *village*,
Kyiv region

Those three weeks seemed to last an eternity. Anna's life followed the same scene: an alarm, the road to the cellar, the piercing cold, and the uncontrollable crying of a two-year-old brother. Each time, breaking out of bed at night, the girl asked her mother: "What? Siren? They will roar again." And every time my mother answered: "Everything will be fine, do not worry."

Their quiet life ended at 5 am on February 24. My mother's brother called: "Ira, get up! War! Get together and run away!". The woman did not believe it at first, but after a loud explosion at Gostomel airfield at about 7 am, she realized: war.

They have spent their entire lives in their hometown of Gostomel. Fleeing from danger, they took only documents with them and went to their grandparents, who also live in the Kyiv region, but away from the capital. Instead of the usual two hours, we drove eight. On the way, we met endless

columns of military equipment. Anna stared at them wearily, her eyes wide, still not realizing how scary it was.

Not having peace with their grandmother, tired of constant anxieties, and running to the basement, the parents decided to take their children to a safer place. Now Anya lives with her mother and brother in Germany. They were given housing, clothes, and food. Everything seems to be fine, but everything is strange. I want to go home. The girl does not yet know that her native Gostomel is half destroyed. And families are advised not to bring children home for at least a couple of years, because, in addition to the destruction, there is another problem - a large area of the village is mined and they do not promise to clear it quickly.

For reference

Kalinichenko family: father - Serhiy Kalinichenko (driver, 37 years old), mother - Iryna Kalinichenko (civil servant, 31 years old), Anna - 5 years old, Bohdan - 2 years old. The family lived in Gostomel, near Kyiv. Gostomel was the first to take the blow of the enemy. Because of the war, mothers and children were forced to leave Ukraine.

