

ХРОНІКА

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OF THE WAR
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FROM THE FIRST
TO THE SECOND «MINSK»

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Information about the authors of the volume 2

Gennady Afanasyev, a professional photographer and Crimean activist, took part in the movement for a united Ukraine during the annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation. But in 2014 he was arrested in Simferopol and he was tried in the case of so-called Crimean terrorists. He was illegally detained in Russian prisons as a political prisoner. He now lives in Kyiv and continues to fight for the release of Ukrainian political prisoners illegally detained in Russia.

Iryna Vovk is a journalist, since 2010 she has worked as an editor, correspondent and documentary filmmaker in the editorial offices of the ZIK news agency, TV channels 24 and ZIK. Since April 2014, she has been in the combat zone in Donbas: as a journalist and volunteer for the Ukrainian military. She headed the Charitable Foundation “24” (assistance to Ukrainian soldiers) in 2014—2015. From the end of 2016, she recorded conversations with the families of Ukrainian soldiers killed in the Donbas, which were included in the three-volume “On the Shield. Memories of the families of fallen soldiers”.

Since March 2020, she has recorded conversations with Ukrainians released from captivity on December 29, 2019, which were included in the book “Isolation. Secret prisons of Donbass in stories saved from torture and death”.

Daria Bura is a journalist who has worked as a freelance correspondent for several Lviv publications since 2008.

Since 2014, she has written texts related to the war in eastern Ukraine (the site of TV channel “24”). Since the end of 2015, she has been in the combat zone in Donbas as a volunteer of the Return Alive Charitable Foundation (assistance to Ukrainian soldiers). Since 2017 — freelance journalist, author of articles in Ipress.ua, Fakty.ictv.ua, Charitable Foundation “Come back alive”; from 2019 — in the editions “Without Armor”, “Novynarnia”. Since March 2018 — radio host on the military radio MOU “Army FM”.

In March 2020, she began to record conversations with Ukrainians released from captivity on December 29, 2019. These stories are included in the book “Isolation. Secret prisons of Donbass in stories saved from torture and death”.

Anna Shyla is the creative pseudonym of Halyna Slipushko. The author graduated from Kyiv Linguistic University and the Institute of Postgraduate Education of Kyiv National University. Taras Shevchenko, majoring in psychology. From romantic short stories about love, the relationship between men and women moved to serious military prose.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2014

■ News Round-Up

Seven Ukrainian servicemen were killed, 59 wounded over the past 24 hours in the area of the Anti-Terrorist Operation, informed Andriy Lysenko, *spokesman of the Information Analytical Center of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC)* at Friday's briefing.

✎ Combat actions have been taking place in Debaltseve area, militants and Russian troops are actively advancing in Luhansk Oblast. *Dmytro Tymchuk, Information Resistance organizer, informs on Facebook.*

"In the zone of combat actions in Donbas, the most tense situation is in the north of Luhansk Oblast (Stanytsia Luhanska), near Donetsk and Debaltseve as well as in the south of Donetsk Oblast (Novoazovsk — Mariupol)", he states. "Pro-Russian terrorists continue active offensive operations in Luhansk Oblast", Tymchuk says. He adds that "Simultaneous reconnaissance by fighting in the Mariupol area indicates that the enemy is trying to identify positions of Ukrainian troops in the area to ensure their further offensive."

Last night the Ukrainian forces struck at the enemy base in the area of settlement Vesele. "Three 122-mm D-30 mortars and enemy manpower were destroyed," Tymchuk says. "There are fights in the area of Debaltseve," he writes.

The statement informs that "The enemy fired at positions and checkpoints of Ukrainian troops near Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhanske, Nikishine, and Stukalova Balka. "The positions of Ukrainian troops were shelled from the Russian territory in the area of Makarov (with MLRS BM-21 "Hrad") and Nyzhnyi Minchenok (with multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) BM-30 "Smerch")."

✎ The website of *Donetsk City Council* says that, eventually, 5 civilians were killed due to the shelling of Donetsk by terrorists.

✎ On Friday, during the negotiations of the contact group between the representatives of Ukraine, "DNR" and "LNR" with the participation of the OSCE, a protocol was signed regarding a cease-fire in Donbas since Friday, 18:00. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko ordered the Head of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to cease fire in Donbas area starting from 18:00 Friday, September 5. Since 18.00 all military units of the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies, involved in the Anti-Terrorist Operation, ceased fire following the order of the President of Ukraine. Meanwhile, the *press office of Donetsk City Council* reports that as of 18:00 Donetsk was restless: there were sounds of shelling and explosions.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

■ News Round-Up

"Over the previous day, militants attacked the ATO forces positions 28 times, including 10 after the cease-fire had been declared" as *the spokesman of the information and analytical Center of National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Andriy Lysenko* says. Specifically, after 18:00 the terrorists carried out artillery shelling of the pontoon bridge over the Siversky Donets River and mortar shelling of the ATO forces positions near Krasnohorivka. In addition, Ukrainian troops at Donetsk airport were shelled several times.

In Luhansk Oblast, a terrorists' mortar shelled the checkpoint of the ATO forces near Zolote and shelled the Ukrainian Forces base near Popasna with small arms.

There was also a shelling with the AGS-17 at checkpoint near Frunze; and the checkpoint of Anti-Terrorist Operation forces near Zolote was shelled with small arms.

Before the cease-fire the RF Armed Forces attempted to attack the village of Shyrokyne near Mariupol'.

✎ In his interview to the BBC, *President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko* declared that Russia can 'capture' not just Kyiv but also any other European city unless the whole world unites in solidarity with Ukraine. Commenting Putin's words that he can 'capture Kyiv' within two weeks, Poroshenko mentioned that "The RF Army contains 1.2 mln people. According to the same logic, as the RF can 'capture Kyiv, Russia can capture Warsaw, Vilnius, Riga, Bucharest, any other city unless the whole world unites in solidarity with Ukraine."

✎ In Zaporizhzhia, local residents are preparing to defend themselves against possible attacks from the Russian Federation: hundreds of activists have gone to dig trenches to defend the city. This is stated in a message on Facebook by the press secretary of the *Head of Zaporizhzhia Oblast State Administration Andriy Rybalchenko*.

✎ The Russian Federation continues to concentrate its armed forces in the north of the temporarily occupied Crimea and rotates its forces and machinery as Andriy Lysenko, spokesman of the Information Analytical Center of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (NSDC), informed.

“On September 5, the movement of Russian military columns along the Rostov-Taganrog route and further towards the border with Ukraine was noticed. Mostly these were Ural tilt and KaMaz trucks (including communication and electronic warfare machines) as well as armored vehicles. The redeployed parts belong to Western Military District of the RF Armed Forces”, the *NSDC spokesman* said.

✎ In Luhansk Oblast large columns of armored vehicles and military trucks, including including Russian T-72VM tanks, Strela-10 anti-aircraft missile systems and SAM mobile launchers have been noticed. The corresponding video was published by *Interpretermag*.

✎ The cease-fire regime in the Anti-Terrorist Operation zone has been violated: the east suburbs of Mariupol were heavy shelled with heavy military equipment. *Journalist Hrihoriy Zhigalov* reported about it in his Twitter.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

- **Iryna Vovk, Daria Bura “ ISOLATION. Secret prisons of Donbas in the stories by people saved from torture and death”**

MARYNA CHUIKOVA,
civilian, resident of Horlivka, born in 1971

Before the war in the Donbas, Maryna Chuikova worked as a nurse in the Horlivka hospital and worked part-time in a jewellery store. She raised two sons, Sava and Arthur, and took care of her mother, who was ill.

With the beginning of hostilities, Maryna managed to evacuate her children from the occupied territory; however, she returned to her mother in Horlivka. Periodically, she went to the territory controlled by Ukraine, but she could not leave her mother for keeps. Having got acquainted with the Ukrainian forces, she began to transmit information to the military about the equipment and personnel of the militants in Horlivka and the surrounding area.

But in March 2018, Maryna was detained at the Horlivka checkpoint and with a bag on her head was taken to the “MGB” in Donetsk. From there, after being tortured and interrogated, she was sent to the pre-trial detention centre. After a year of waiting, one day Maryna was sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment in the Snizhniansky women’s colony.

Throughout her time in captivity of the militants (21 months), Maryna’s sons regularly organized rallies and actions in support of their mother in different cities of the country, addressed the government and the President. Not in vain.

On December 29, 2019, Maryna was exchanged at the Maiorsk checkpoint: she was taken by bus from the colony along with other Ukrainian captives. Maryna’s mother did not live to see her daughter’s release and died 40 days before the event.

The first thing that made me so angry was the Crimea. Apparently, everyone understood that Russia might not stop only on its occupation. Especially the residents of Horlivka where every day emerged more and more incomprehensible people in a uniform so similar to the Russian one.

They began to collect tires and build roadblocks at the entrances to the city. There were fighter planes flying overhead. This did not infuse with hope for anything good. Of course, no one then suspected that there would be a full-scale war.

I am unmarried and, above all, I was worried about my children.

My guys were engaged in sports and, in spring of 2014, the militants began to cling to them, saying, “Why are you not fighting?” I am a nurse, I worked in a local hospital, and they also came to me: they told me to go to work in their “militia units”. I didn’t want to, and they were angry and insulted me.

I had a lot of friends and acquaintances during my life in the city. Those who had a little more money, their own business became the first victims of extortions. So they started leaving the city. And nobody cared about me at the time. They were saving themselves, their relatives, and their property. And how could I blame them? If I had an opportunity, I probably would have left that Horlivka myself. There were terrible things happening.

“Bes” seized power in the city. As they say, “And spurn the dust to win the prize”; they were illiterate, stupid and ignorant people.

They didn’t know how to manage it all. Therefore, they began to be reinforced by Russian mercenaries, military mob muscle: they taught local misfits “how to deal with dissenters”. They kept arresting people for nothing: for photos in social networks, for tweets, and even for selfies, and there was a military vehicle passing somewhere in the background. Not to mention Volodymyr Rybak, our local MP, who was brutally killed for his outstanding pro-Ukrainian position. I remember hearing a lot of screaming cases of detention, and I even deleted the photo from my phone where I shot my orchid: I was happy as it bloomed every day, and they stationed their combat equipment under my windows.

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