**Valeriia Kormyltseva, 9 years old (pages 24-25)**

I was born in Donetsk. My mother told me that when I was four months old, the war started and we moved to Bucha.

And then the war began again, which I already remember well. It was

very scary because military planes were flying over our house making the

air blow very hard nearby.

We decided to leave...

Then they called us and told us that our house had burned down.

My mother and I cried a lot.

I want to live in Irpin without war.

**Alisa Kot, 7 years old (pages 100-101)**

We could not have imagined what happened even in our wildest dreams.

Everything, as it does for most, started in the morning...

We did not think about leaving the city at all, we did not imagine the scale, we did not believe that it would be for a long time... The petrol tank in the car was half-empty.

From the first days, we hid in basements, slept on the floor under constant shelling, which did not subside day or night. We dared to leave on March 5.

Dad took us to a safe place, and he himself returned to his military unit and, as in 2014, began to defend Ukraine.

This is a drawing for dad, where he walks and everything around becomes as it once was - whole houses, blossoming trees and bushes...

I miss him, but I am very proud. If all the fathers had taken it and not gone to defend it, then our native city would no longer exist.

**Kyryl Tsiupko, 6 years old (pages 6 - 7)**

The morning of February 24 began with explosions...

At first, we were not going to go anywhere, since the fighting was not in the city. We thought that the civilian population would not be affected.

However, already in the evening, the sounds of explosions were approaching Irpin. We decided to take shelter in the dormitory of the

Tax Academy. There were many children there. Soon they started playing war and it was very frightening.

On the evening of August 4, 2022, a projectile hit nearby.

And then again...

On March 5, 2022, a decision was made to leave.

It was scary, because we constantly read in the news about shelling of

evacuation columns or people at the station. In the evening we reached

our relatives.

We returned home in May. Our house is intact, but without windows. I was glad that the dog that lived on our driveway survived.

**Natalia Klymenko, 6 years old (pages 78-79)**

This is a drawing of 'wall-E' from the Irpin embankment, near which we lived.

We spent ten days in the basement under shelling. I was very scared,

I was afraid to leave the basement. I was afraid of all sounds, explosions and even lightning. We thought to wait... Fortunately, we were evacuated on 04.03 due to the destroyed bridge of Hope.

My most vivid impression of the evacuation was when a solider carried me in his arms through the Irpinka river. I felt proud.

The four days of the road to Germany were hell.

Dad went to TrO (territorial defence unit) on the first day to protect our home from... the rashists.

I miss my dad a lot. I draw a lot for him, send photos and videos.

I write down all my successes.

**Dmytro Ostapenko, 9 years old (pages 60-61)**

Did we think that this could happen in the 21st century?

We did not have an emergency suitcase or a full tank of gas [Americanism: in the UK we say petrol].

The war caught us unprepared...

We were forced to hear and see what war is.

Later, after the release of Irpin, we saw on the drone video that our house was damaged, the roof completely demolished...

**Ivan Verzhykovskyi, 9 years old (pages 38-39)**

Our family had no illusions about a possible Russian [rashist?] attack.

We were mentally prepared. Therefore, without panic, they got up, put

the first and best things in the car and left Irpin for Uzhhorod at 6:45 a.m.

We had to make a difficult decision - to leave the country to visit

relatives in Spain.

Now dad defends the country in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

Moreover, time has stopped for us. There is no joy in our lives now.

Everything became grey for us, even in sunny Spain. I am waiting for life to return to colour again the moment we hear the news of our victory.

The picture shows my playground in Irpin.