



# Alma Mater

A bulletin of the Foreign Languages Department

*Fighting for peace, is like f\*\*\*ing for chastity.*

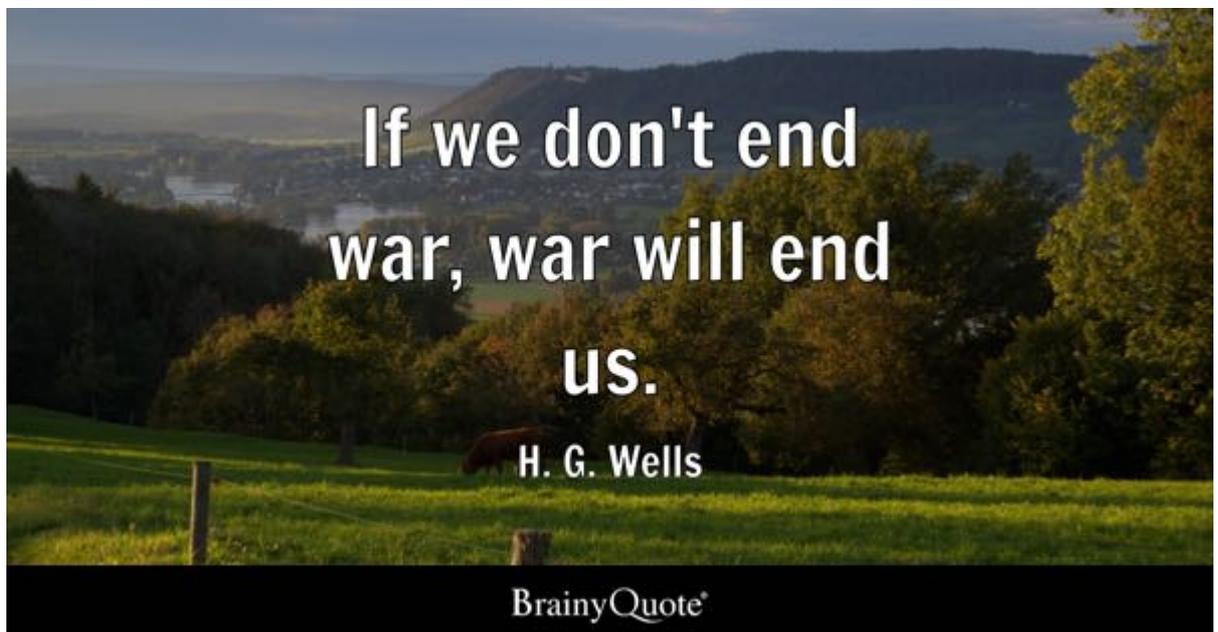
**Stephen King**

*There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people.*

**Howard Zinn**

*Men make war to get attention. All killing is an expression of self-hate.*

**Alice Walker**



That war is never good, of that we all know. It destroys the very base of humanity; and yet, countries go to war. They fight over invisible borders and materialistic values; they fight over things that should not matter, over an Earth that they don't love as their own. They fight the rich man's war, to appease his hunger for power and money, and they destroy generations and generations of values and culture. They sow the seeds of mistrust and insecurity, and make a mockery of the term human rights. And yet, there is war. And there is constant, unrelenting fear.

Anger, love, grief, guilt, shame, fear, hatred, proud – it is impossible to look at individuals' experiences of war without thinking about these emotions, along with many others. The war has caused undoubtable change in our lives. Everything changed in our routine, but mostly in things and people in our lives. You have completely different values. In one second, you understand what is necessary and what isn't necessary. We have got used to reading news several times a day. It's almost every 15 minutes, every half an hour, updates on the Telegram channels – sometimes we mute them. That has also changed, I'm

not sure if it's stress or not, maybe every Ukrainian is feeling this stress, maybe it's some anxiety. You feel you should be updated because it could directly affect your life.

When we asked the students which topic they liked to discuss, the answer was the horrific war in Ukraine...

## A REAL HERO

Life during the War is not life at all, but a continuous terrible experience, especially for the person who has relatives at the front.

To my great regret, I fell into the number of these people; both of my parents serve in this way.

But I would really like to dedicate this essay to my father, so that when he returns home with a victory, he will read and understand that every minute of my life, I was living with thoughts about him.

One day all the children grew up, people stopped smiling and I realized that everything had lost its value, except human life. For me, the war was not the most terrible event, the decision of my father to go to the front - that's what really made my heart stop beating...

My father is a man of honor, and he had no a single doubt in his decision to defend his country and he was ready for anything.

At the moment you forget about your personal fears, you are with the person who is on the front line with all your body and soul, in the hope that this will save him. You are no longer living your own life - you are living the life of your father.

I know that men can cry, but I had never thought that I would see how my bravest and strongest dad would not just let out a tear, but burst into tears. He is not crying because he is afraid, not because he is missing home and his family, he is crying because of the number of dead soldiers at the front. You can't see a smile on his face now, you can only see scratches and chronic fatigue, you can't see fear in his eyes, but you can see only pain, the pain of every mother, the pain of every child, the pain of every soldier. His eyes can see what they should never have seen. Every day I ask the Lord for only one thing, that dad would return home alive. Every day I try to remove negative thoughts, switching to household chores, talking with friends, but these thoughts haunt me, the fear inside my soul is very strong and nothing helps. Every free minute, I look through instant messengers to find out when you were last online.





I began to appreciate every second of conversation with him, I scold myself for the fact that in peaceful lifetime I devoted little time and attention to him.

I am ashamed that while I am sleeping on a warm bed, drinking hot tea, he is sleeping in a cold trench and eating what he has to. Therefore, in order to somehow drown out this feeling of guilt and pay tribute to him, I try to provide him with warm clothes, some food that can be stored for a long time and any need, and, if possible, all the soldiers who are under his command.

Now I am afraid of only one thing, to hear only one thing... which I am even afraid to write about... I live like on a powder keg and feel that I'm likely to explode.

But I know one thing for sure - when he returns home with a victory, I will never forget what he did for Ukraine and personally for me. I and my descendants will be so grateful to him until the end of our days. After all, I would like to say my father is a real hero, from the books that my mother read us in the childhood!

«I carry you in my pocket near my heart

For only with you it beats

While you are in the pocket of the heart

I am alive ...» - these are the words I would like to dedicate to my father.

Glory to Ukraine!

But I know one thing for sure - when he returns

*Krystyna Makarova, gr.930*

## **BECOMING STRONGER AND STRONGER**

We often heard stories from older people about life after the war, or how they were living during it, but I never thought that I would become a part of such a story and tell my children not about my happy life, but about how to survive. The war will end sometime, and I believe in our victory, but the experience we got will remain forever, as well as the feeling of fear inside.

I cannot understand and will never understand why political issues are being decided at the cost of innocent lives and great human losses? Are these little kids to blame? Why do people still resolve conflicts with the help of guns in the 21st century? There is only one answer to these questions; there are cold heartless animals on the other side of the war.



I will never forget the sounds of a siren that pierces our hearts to the point of trembling, and only one thing appears in my thoughts: «Lord save Ukraine».

At first, you are afraid of everything, from every siren you run for a cover, any unfamiliar sound takes your breath away, every explosion you hear flies right into your heart and tears it to pieces.

Then anger and determination overcome fear. Someone is ready to go headlong into battle, while someone is sacredly waiting for the end of the war.

I noticed how many people rallied. War is a monster that takes innocent lives, a monster that gives people memories for life that everyone would like to forget. But only during the war we can see who is really needed. The relatives call and write, they are interested in how things are going. Now life is the most valuable thing we have.

At first, my life turned into a Groundhog Day, from the morning till the night I was digging in the news monitoring a lot of sites. I learned what apathy is and how far it can go.

Going out into the street, I no longer saw joyful people, I saw people whose faces had outlines of fear mixed with anxiety and sleepless nights.

A human tends to adapt to everything and now, thanks to our military forces, it is much easier to be in reality, it is still anxious, but knowing that there are the strongest and most courageous fighters on the front and our air defense is the most accurate, anxiety does not interfere in our everyday lives.

Our country cannot be defeated, because the most hardworking and fearless people live in it. We even have children donating to help the army, getting money in any way they can, making and selling bracelets, singing songs on the street or playing musical instruments. Because there are our superheroes who will stop evil and children understand this.

We are on our own land, we will survive, although there are a lot of innocent victims. The enemy thought that the war would divide Ukraine and its people, but, on the



contrary, the war united us. The whole world saw that Ukraine is not a country that can simply fall. We have very wonderful words in the hymn: «We will lay down our soul and body for our freedom». These are very strong words which every Ukrainian understands. These words are true - we are ready to give our lives so that our children live in a free independent state, so that there is no place for «the Russian world» here... I think that this war will not last long: they are running out of ammunition and fuel, and their powers are not infinite either.

As Lina Kostenko said, «And you thought that Ukraine was so simple. Ukraine is great. Ukraine is exclusive. All the rinks of the history went through it. It has worked out all kinds of tests. It is hardened by the highest hardening. In the conditions of the modern world, it has

no price».

*Masha Sochenko, gr.930P*

## RETHINKING THE VALUES OF LIFE

Well, I guess there will not be surprise if I say that morning, which all of us, Ukrainians, clearly remember, my life has changed forever.

At first, I was full of confusion, as all of us were, and thought that the nightmare would end in a week...in two weeks...in three weeks. Okay, one more week... Okay! Maybe one more month... and now it has been over 200 days. Not only our lives have changed, but so did our thoughts. Now the word “friendship” means a totally different thing. The word “enemy” has totally changed its meaning. Nowadays “family” means not only people whom you are «united» by blood with, but also with whom you are united by thoughts and beliefs. Today the word “support” means everything, together we become stronger. Artem Loik sang in one of his songs: “...and it's never too late to learn, love and grow!” I fully agree. It's never too late to remember and learn our native language, to start reading our literature, learn about our artists and love our motherland in a way no one even knew we could. People discovered the ways they can help Ukraine, the war taught us a lot. In the end I would like to say that I'm surprisingly thankful! Thankful for the chance to realize what our life is worth. That every day is unique. That you should treat yourself, you should treat others, and you should treat every moment of your existence as good as you can because you never know what the next morning can bring you... Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heroes!

*Andriy Maliuk, gr.925*

With the beginning of the war, the life of every Ukrainian changed, of course, each one's in its own way. Someone lost everything, someone gave everything to help their country and its defenders, someone was forced to leave everything they have, but our lives will never be the same. Life values have changed for each of us, now the main value is not money and fame, but every saved life, every hero who returned to his native home and his people, and those heroes who will forever remain in our hearts and memories, who became the symbol and spirit of the words "Glory to heroes!" and those who did everything to make the words "Glory to Ukraine!" sounded from all corners of the world, and our flags flew in every country.



I, like many other Ukrainians, had to go abroad at the beginning of the war. I left my parents and brother at home, because it was impossible and dangerous to go home near Kyiv. We were well received abroad, especially by the Poles. They helped, gave their own to help those from whom everything was taken away, their former life was taken away... But no matter where and no matter how we are received, no one is waiting for us there, and it is felt later. Then you understand that there is no place dearer to you than your native land, you understand that no country in Europe can be



compared with Ukraine.



Being abroad without family and friends, you start to appreciate the moments when you had the opportunity to spend time with them. Therefore, after the long-awaited and long-awaited return home, I began to spend more time with my parents and brother. And every day I am grateful to those people, thanks to whom I had someone to go to and somewhere to return to, I thank them for every Ukrainian whose life they saved. Every day we pay a great price for bringing Ukraine closer to victory, every day someone gives a part of himself or

his life for this victory, but we are from the Cossacks, so we will lay down body and soul for our freedom.

*Ilona Dovhal, gr.923*



## **EDUCATION DURING THE WAR**

Since the beginning of the war in the country, education has become very difficult and for many it took a back seat in some way. Students, like other citizens, are forced to adapt to new conditions and continue their studies.

Since the announcement of the attack, most people have started actively following the news and watching all available sources of information. This was the beginning of the deterioration of the emotional state, people noticed and chose only bad news, even introduced a new slang term "doomscrolling", which means constant reading of negative news. Due to anxiety and unstable emotional state, many people could not separate the false information and because of its spread, even more intimidation was going on. During the war, training at university was transferred to a virtual format, and it caused a number of disadvantages. Firstly, the inconvenience of the system: created sites often fail. Secondly, the problems with the Internet connection and sometimes the impossibility of completing written tasks. When an air alert is announced, the lesson is either interrupted or postponed to another day. Taking into account all mentioned above, the ability of the most students to work and learn has significantly decreased.

Despite the fact that some students try to distance themselves from the topic of war as much as possible and reduce their experiences to a minimum, most take an active part in helping others. In information sources of the higher educational institutions and in students' chat rooms,



there are proposals of various volunteer movements, for example: weaving protective nets, psychological assistance to refugees, packaging and distribution of humanitarian aid. Among the specialized ones are usually: transportation of medical preparations and creation of military blockades. In addition, almost everyone, who wants and can, donates money to help the military forces. It is also worth noting the help in the information front. There is an active support and dissemination of facts in social networks one should take control over.

In conclusion, I would like to note that despite constant worries and anxiety, Ukrainian students, like the rest of the population, make maximum efforts to support not only the military of their country, but also other citizens suffering from the war. Everyone believes in victory and does everything possible for it. Glory to Ukraine!

*Nazar Andreiev, gr.925*

It is a very difficult time for my country. From the end of February there has been martial law. As usual we were going to the university in the morning I didn't even know what had happened. As always in the morning I was hurrying to my classes at the university. On the way I received the messages from my friends studying abroad. They were worried and asked how I was doing and what was happening. I had already driven far enough from my house when they asked me to urgently return home. Soon, reports began to come and the explosions were heard in the area where I live.

Luckily when I got home everything was fine. During the day, I received a lot of texts and calls with the only question "How are you?". That's when I realized how many people cared about me. It still warms my heart up to this day. Thanks to the people who always give me a hand, I want to move forward.

Of course, due to this situation in the country, for the sake of safety, education is now distant and I really don't have enough communication. I would really like to finally see my groupmates, talk with them during the breaks, return home together and discuss various interesting things. It is very difficult for me to stay at home and communicate online all the time. We are the second year students, there are new disciplines and teachers and it is very difficult to communicate with them because you have never seen them.

But I really hope that a better time will come soon, everything will be fine and we will still fully enjoy the real student life.



*Margarita Popik, gr. 920*

## HAVING A MILITARY CALLING



Hi everybody! I am a student who is studying programming. Who does not yet know what "Caliber" and "Iskander" are, then you are lucky or you did not want to be interested in the war.

This is the name of the missiles that the aggressor country has been launching to us since February. Perhaps this image will not give you anything, but there are slightly different shots.

This is the center of Kharkov. Okay, now you can see what Caliber and Iskander are...



My morning on February 24th had been usual until I woke up for school and decided to check the news. It was 4 am, and everyone was watching Putin's speech. Even then, an hour before the invasion, I had realized what would happen.

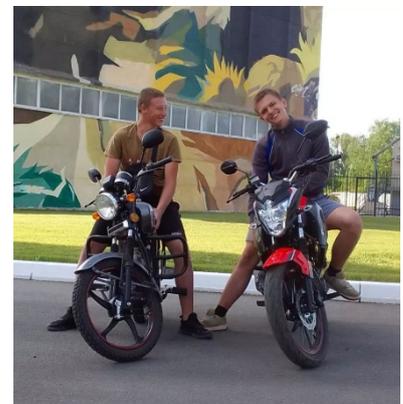
After several months of terrible life, everyone has already used to the rockets flying overhead. My uncle was taken to the front, and I am digging trenches and trenches, because I could not help in any other way. Few people know, that I tried to enter the Military Flight Training School in Kharkiv. I was not admitted as a pilot due to my health, but they offered to take the OBU (Combat Control Officer) course. Emotionally, I refused, but later I regretted my decision. The family was glad that I did not enter the military school. I always felt like a military man, but alas, as soon as it came to the fact that I would join the army, there was a cry. So, I dug trenches and packed sandbags, that's all I was allowed to.



When summer came, the trenches were no longer needed, since our army went on the

counteroffensive. I found a new hobby - fishing. My friend and I were sitting on the river hearing shots, explosions (since there is a training ground near us), the whistles of rockets.

Often, I saw the columns of the vehicles that were just in «the trash». I was surprised and amused having seen "Tavria" driving along the road almost without a rear body, there were no windshields or they were but dented right inside! And there were soldiers there. In general, life is no longer what it used to be. But almost all the time, when I see something military, it torments me, because I could also defend my country ...



*Serhii Nazarenko, gr.925*

## **A GREAT HELPER**



A tiny Jack Russell terrier has won hearts and admirers for helping neutralize hundreds of Russian explosives in Ukraine. Now he's won state honors, too. Patron has so far detected more than 200 explosives, according to Ukrainian claims, potentially saving dozens of lives and preventing serious injuries, and has become a canine symbol of Ukrainian patriotism.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday (May 8th) presented a medal to Patron, Ukraine's famous mine-sniffing dog,

and his owner Mykhailo Iliiev, for their services to the nation since the Russian invasion began on February 24. "A dog who helps clean our land from the traces of the occupiers, and who also helps teach children mine safety," he said. "Due to the Russian invaders, this is now one of the most urgent tasks - to teach children to recognize and avoid explosive objects.

Iliiev -who is from Chernihiv and has been doing this type of work since 2014 - initially bought Patron from a work colleague as a pet for his son. Now the two work together to neutralize mines and missiles left by Russian forces. Here's how that works: Patron was trained to recognize the smell of gunpowder. When he smells it, he gives a signal to Iliiev, who then works with his human teammates to find and defuse the devices. A dog has a sense of smell that is far more evolved than that of humans, and they can, with training, sniff out explosives in landmines or in metal or plastic casing. A dog has an olfactory zone that is 40 times that of humans; its nose goes all the way to the back of its throat, and contains approximately 300 million receptor cells, compared to about 6 million in humans.



Patron, whose name has been translated into English as “ammo” or “cartridge”, also acts as a mascot of the country’s State Emergency Service (SES). He frequently appears in videos on official Ukrainian social media channels, and in illustrations, toys, and knitted replicas made by his fans all over the country.

But Patron still finds time to enjoy classic canine pursuits like playing with his friends and snacking on his favorite treats. "Patron just loves cheese," Iliiev said. "He is a very active dog that likes to have a good run with other dogs and then, of course, sleep."

*Elnur Talibov, gr.930P*



ГОЛОВНОКОМАНДУВАЧ  
РОЗМІНУВАЛЬНИХ ОПЕРАЦІЙ



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