MARIA KOROLCHUK,
12 years old

City of Starobilsk,
Luhansk region

There was practically no connection with my father. He was in a "hotspot" where there was constant shelling. Maria and her mother were very worried about him. He called once a week and said: "I'm alive, all is well, take care of yourself! My dear, I love you. " The girl barely managed to shout at him in response that she loves him too, and he turned off.

Until April 11, Maria and her mother stayed at home. The occupiers became more and more brutal and killed all civilians who simply came to their notice. The family decided to run away from home. Gathered the essentials and jumped into the car. "Halfway to Lviv, my mother was called from an unknown number and told that my father was no more... My father died during a combat mission. After these words, for the first time in my life, I was terribly in pain, everything inside was shrinking and tears rolled involuntarily. My mother still can't come to her senses, she cries every day. Dad was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine. But do we need heroes posthumously? We need a father we will never see again, – Maria shares the most pain and goes to her dream. "Rather, this brutal war would end and stop stealing our loved ones."

For reference

Korolchuk family:
Father – Alexander, a border guard, died in the war on April 11, 2022 at the age of 36; mother – Anastasia, assistant notary, 32 years old; daughter – Maria, a schoolgirl, 12 years old.