



ABOUT LITTLE BROTHERS

Our farm was in the Derhachy district of Kharkiv region, 2 km from the Russian border. Our small village of 30 houses has been under occupation almost since the beginning of the war. At the moment the frontline is very close, and the occupiers dug trenches almost under our house. My husband and I decided to stay on the farm until the victory of Ukraine. We are used to living to the sounds of war, we have learned to distinguish between types of shells. I did not even want to think about leaving our animals. But only until the very day when a Russian soldier with a group of like-minded people thought of torturing my husband. Through the window I saw him taken to the forest carrying a shovel

under the barrels of machine guns. Eugene had to dig his own grave, but taking the moment, with the help of one sympathetic soldier, he fled.

I sat in the house and prayed, begged for my husband to stay alive, and was ready to run away with him, even on foot. This is what I call a reappraisal of values. Why should I have all my animals if we are killed? We didn't sleep all night, we collected things. In the morning my man changed two cut wheels on our car. It was the executioner who took revenge because he wanted to prevent the escape. Thank God, we had exactly two spare wheels ...

We left with 5 goats, their 3 kids and our Norwich dog Bilka. These were all the animals we were able to evacuate in a car with a trailer. We released to pasture the rest of the adult goats, 18 adults and 15 three-month-old goats. We left the barn door fixed in a way that the goats could enter barn on their own. We poured water into all available tanks: large basins that were on the farm and in the cheese factory. Our large yard dogs and cat also stayed on the farm. This is the worst decision we have made in our life - to leave everything and go into unknown. The evacuated goats are now at our friends' farm. And I dream that our village will be liberated from the Russians, and we will be able to move all the remaining animals to safe areas.

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