

Life on the Donbas frontline

An investigation by Florian Le Moal, Mathieu Dreujou, and Nicolas Berthelot.

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We were able to share the daily life of soldiers in Donbas, on the Eastern front of Ukraine, where the fighting is raging. These men are trying to defend their country. They were civilians a year ago... Now they find themselves on the front line risking their lives.

Artem, 24, is an artillery pointer: before the war, he was a railway worker, "a simple life", he says, but "the war changed me a lot".

Volodymyr is a doctor who wanted to "take part in the liberation" because "there was a risk that the Russians would come to my house"; he now practices field surgery.

In an ambulance carrying wounded, Eduard, a 42-year-old nurse, says he is "tired", but he stays because he knows his role is "necessary".

Braving the fear, the cold and the mud, all of them have only one wish: to win the war, but they are aware that it is likely to last.



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