



# A Voluntary Charity working in Ukraine and Moldova

with roots going back to 1990



## Voices from Ukraine – Wounded in Action Collier's Story

Between visits to families, I made my way to a military hospital where we were scheduled to meet Collier—a 26-year-old soldier recovering from serious injuries. He lay quietly in a small ward shared with three other young men, all of whom had suffered leg injuries. Sadly, it is all too common now to see rows of young soldiers who have lost one or even both legs; fewer, though still too many, have lost upper limbs. But these are the lucky ones, they are alive.



Collier was wounded on October 20th while defending a village under heavy bombardment from a Russian tank. After being injured, he was taken to an underground field hospital for emergency care before being transferred to Kyiv for more advanced treatment. His left leg had to be amputated at the hip, and though doctors are fighting to save his right leg, the outlook is uncertain.

He still carries 15 pieces of shrapnel in his remaining leg—embedded so deeply and dangerously that they cannot be removed. With quiet honesty, Collier told me he is “not friends” with that leg any more; the pain it causes him is relentless. While the medical team holds hope, it’s hard to know whether saving it will ultimately be possible.



Once stabilized, Collier will be transferred to a rehabilitation centre, where he is expected to receive a prosthetic limb. From there, he will eventually be allowed to return home.

But home, for Collier, is a small village house that once belonged to his mother. He is an orphan and has had little formal education, leaving him with few prospects for employment—even fewer now, living with such profound injuries in a rural area with limited support services. Though he will receive a small military pension, it will not be enough to truly sustain him.

His story is just one among many, a poignant reminder of the human cost of this war—and of the courage, resilience, and vulnerability of those who bear its scars.

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