

As refugee numbers soar, many haunted by terror of war

BY VANESSA GERA
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Associated Press

PRZEMYSL, Poland — It took Tatyana Pelykh and her 11-year-old son four days of travel and a wait of nearly 48 hours at the border crossing to escape their native Ukraine for Romania. There they found safety and a place to sleep, on the floor of a hotel conference room.

But Pelykh, a baker, says she still carries the terror of war inside her.

"I feel that my body is here, but my heart and my soul are in Okhtyrka and Kharkiv," the cities in Ukraine where her parents and best friend remain hunkered down in basements and garages under Russian attack.

In just one week, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has produced a refugee exodus so large that it almost matches the number of people who sought refuge in Europe in a whole year during the 2015 migration crisis.

The United Nations refugee agency said Thursday that 1 million people had fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion, the swiftest exo-

odus of refugees this century. In 2015, hundreds of thousands of Syrians had fled their strife-torn country, which Russia also bombarded. Together with people escaping fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, they headed west, with thousands dying at sea trying to reach a continent where many didn't want them.

The arrival of about 1.3 million people sparked tensions among European partners, who squabbled over how many to accept, and bolstered far-right populists, some friendly to the Kremlin.

This time, as Russian forces inflict massive destruction on Ukraine, Europeans have united in extending a helping hand.

In one week, neighboring nations accepted more than 2% of Ukraine's population of 44 million, according to the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR. The operation has gone relatively smoothly thanks to an enormous mobilization of volunteers who have gone to the borders to help.

The European Union decided Thursday to grant people fleeing Ukraine temporary protection and

residency permits. EU Migration Commissioner Ylva Johansson said millions more were expected to move into the 27-nation bloc and would require shelter, schooling and work. The U.N. refugee agency predicted the war could produce up to 4 million refugees.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians and others who had been living in Ukraine continued to arrive in Polish, Hungarian, Slovakian, Romanian and Moldovan border towns.

Among them was Nadia Zuravka, a teenager who arrived Thursday in Przemysl, Poland, with her mother. They came from Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is under bombardment. She said both her school and home had been hit by bombs, and her friends were all hiding in basements.

"Everything of value to me" has faced some kind of destruction, she said.

Poland, a neighboring Slavic nation where many Ukrainians have settled in recent years for work, has received the largest single group of refugees so far, with many being taken in by relatives or friends. Many refugees continue moving west to countries like Italy and Germany.

Volunteers and local authorities at border crossings meet exhausted people who

have been traveling for days. They serve food or guide the newcomers to shelters; sometimes they take strangers into their own homes. Children arriving with cancer were evacuated to hospitals in Poland.

Pope Francis thanked Poland for its role in helping refugees, praising the country's people for "opening your borders, your hearts, the doors of your homes."

People from across Europe are helping too, even as they struggle with their own fears of what this dangerous new chapter holds for a continent that has faced so much bloodshed in past wars.

Luc Dedecker drove 1,650 kilometers (1,025 miles) from his home in Belgium to Przemysl, stopping only to sleep in his car. He was prepared to take strangers back to his place.

"People need to be helped," he said. He also described a profound fear of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

For Poles, Russia's attack on Ukraine evokes memories of their own country's double invasion in 1939 by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. The German invasion triggered World War II and a brutal five-year occupation that killed 6 million Poles, including 3 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

Scenes of destroyed fire immediately, discharging four rounds from his service weapon.

Barajas is seen in the video continuing to stand for a few seconds as orders resumed for him to drop his weapon. He then sits down momentarily on the wall near him before collapsing on his back to the ground.

As officers approached Barajas with guns drawn, they continued to order him to drop the knife, but he did not appear to be responsive. When they got closer, one of officers is heard reporting the knife was tethered to Barajas' wrist.

The knife was detached



Refugees fleeing the conflict from neighbouring Ukraine exit a tent at the Romanian-Ukrainian border, in Siret, Romania on Thursday. The number of people sent fleeing Ukraine by Russia's invasion topped 1 million on Wednesday, the swiftest refugee exodus this century, the United Nations said, as Russian forces kept up their bombardment of the country's second-biggest city, Kharkiv, and laid siege to two strategic seaports. ANDREEA ALEXANDRU/AP

Ukrainian cities today recall the look of Polish cities leveled by German bombardments during the war.

Some Poles described helping Ukrainians now as part of a struggle by the democratic West to defend their own liberty, since sheltering Ukrainian women and children frees men to fight at home.

"We think that if Ukrainians fight and win, we will be safe. Now, we are not safe," said Bartosz Tomaszewski, a 28-year-old Pole in a yellow security vest that marked him as a volunteer.

He was guiding people coming off trains in Przemysl, where he has traveled

each day from his home in nearby Rzeszow.

Tomaszewski fears that if Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fails to stop Putin, Poland could be next, along with the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Pelykh, the Ukrainian refugee in the Romanian border town of Siret, hopes people in Russia "will read about this and think about what is happening now (in Ukraine). It's not photoshop, it's not fairy tales. It's real, it's real. It's in my town."

OBITUARIES

BETTY PARISH

Aug. 4, 1925 – Jan. 26, 2022



Betty Lou Parish, of El Centro, was born on August 4, 1925 in Los Cruces, NM and passed away on January 26, 2022.

Betty was a dairy goat leader for 4-H for 50 years and owned Brawley Floral for over 50 years. She was a life long resident of the Imperial Valley.

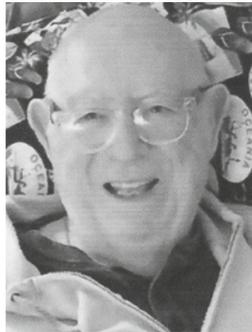
She was preceded in death by her husband, Llyod A. Parish; her parents, Alfred and Gladys Soule; and sister, Dorothy Moss.

She is survived by her daughter, Ellen (Parish) Villanuava of Holtville; her sons, Martin (Gail) Parish of El Centro and Lloyd (Becky) Parish of Apple Valley; and her 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held March 5, 2022 at 10 a.m. at Evergreen Cemetery, officiated by Reverend Matt Mincher.

GORDON J. BELSON

Dec. 24, 1933 - Feb. 17, 2022



Born in New York City, Gordon J. Belson was raised and educated in Southern California, earning an A.A. degree at Imperial Valley College in 1952. He worked at radio station KXO as a weekend announcer while a student at IVC, where he also was student body president. Following two years as a newsman for the American Forces Korea Network, he returned to KXO and later became

president and general manager of the station.

Belson was active in numerous community organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, Chamber of Commerce, Commonwealth Club of California, El Centro Boys Club, El Centro Parks and Recreation Commission, Imperial Valley Council of the Navy League, Imperial Valley Press Club and the Kiwanis Club.

In 1993, he moved to Salem, joined the Kiwanis Club, and served as president for one year. He also enjoyed monthly poker games with friends.

Gordon passed away from Parkinson's Disease related issues. He leaves his wife of 61 years, Marcella, two daughters, Linda Urrutia and Donna Robinson, two grandsons, Justin Urrutia and Tom Baker. He was preceded by his parents, Edward and Monica Belson, his brother Jerry, and sister Monica.

No services are planned. He will be interred at the Willamette Cemetery in Portland at a later date.

WALTER L. CRESS

Dec. 22, 1943 – Feb. 21, 2022



Walter L. Cress, 78, of Calexico passed away on February 21, 2022 of a short illness.

He was born on December 22, 1943 and was married to Deborah O. Cress on July 25, 1987 in Calexico.

He was a lawyer, teacher and coach at Calexico High School.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hugh; mother, Helen; brother, Hugh.

Walter is survived by his wife, Deborah of Calexico, Ca; son, Pj; daughters, Lisa and Adrian; sister, Linda; several nieces and nephews.

The family suggest memorials to Calexico Educational Foundation 901 Andrade Ave in Calexico, Ca 92231.

SHOOTING

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footage of the incident on YouTube as part of a Critical Incident Community Briefing. It indicates Barajas was ordered in English and Spanish to drop the knife while officers kept their distance. Within seconds, Barajas turned toward the officer wearing the camera and appeared to wave the knife in his direction. Barajas appeared to be several feet away and on the opposite side of a short wall in front of the bus stop. The unidentified officer opened

FAIR

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orders that resulted in the cancellation of such events through 2021.

This year's fair is scheduled to run through March 13. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children 6 to 12 and \$6 for seniors 60 and older.

TODAY AT THE FAIR – GATES OPEN AT 3 P.M.

On-going Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society – gold panning, geode cutting, gem tree game, fossil cleaning, cabochon making, gem faceting, wire wrapping and more

On-going Livestock Showmanship & Market – Livestock Arenas

On-going Artesanos de México – Plaza de las Culturas

On-going Casa de Mañana – Vendors and exhibitors

On-going Helm & Sons Amusements

On-going Strolling Enter-

tainment from, Godfrey the Magician, Balloonacy, The Street Drum Corps, Cap'n Jack

9 a.m. Jr. cavies, cavy sow and litter – Sperber Arena

9 a.m. Jr. breeding chickens, Jr. poultry, turkeys – Small Animal Barn

9:30 a.m. Jr. waterfowl – Small Animal Barn

9:30 a.m. Jr. Breeding rabbits – Sperber Arena

11 a.m. Jr. horse show – Horse Arena

3 p.m. Opening ceremonies – Main Gate

3 p.m. Dairy goat show – Swine Arena

4 p.m. Dogs – Beef Arena

5 p.m. Pygmy goat show – Sperber Arena

5:30 p.m. The Suzy Haner Hypnosis Show – SDSU-IV Palm Oasis Stage

6:30 p.m. UTV Races – Grandstands

7 p.m. The Suzy Haner Hypnosis Show – SDSU IV Palm Oasis Stage

8 p.m. Checker'd Past Mechanics Bank Center Stage

8:30 p.m. The Suzy Haner Hypnosis Show – SDSU

IV Palm Oasis Stage Buildings and gates close at 10 p.m.

SATURDAY AT THE FAIR – GATES OPEN AT NOON

On-going Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society – gold panning, geode cutting, gem tree game, fossil cleaning, cabochon making, gem faceting, wire wrapping and more

On-going Livestock Showmanship & Market – Livestock Arenas

On-going Artesanos de México – Plaza de las Culturas

On-going Casa de Mañana – Vendors and exhibitors

On-going Helm & Sons Amusements

On-going Strolling Entertainment from, Godfrey the Magician, Balloonacy, The Street Drum Corps, Cap'n Jack

8:30 a.m. Jr. market breeding swine – Swine Arena

8:30 a.m. Jr. market

sheep/breeding sheep – Sperber Arena

9 a.m. Cavies – Small Animal Barn

9 a.m. Doe and litter show – Small Animal Barn

9 a.m. Jr. rabbit meat pens – Small Animal Barn

9 a.m. Holstein feeder calves – Beef Arena

9:30 a.m. Rabbit show – Small Animal Barn

Noon Jr. breeding sheep – Sperber Arena

2 p.m. Jr. breeding swine – Swine Arena

4 p.m. Capitol '64 – Mechanics Bank Center Stage

5:30 p.m. The Suzy Haner Hypnosis Show – SDSU-IV Palm Oasis Stage

5:30 p.m. Racing – Grandstands

7 p.m. The Suzy Haner Hypnosis Show – SDSU-IV Palm Oasis Stage

8 p.m. Nick Wells & Big Bad Wolf – Mechanics Bank Center Stage

8:30 p.m. The Suzy Haner Hypnosis Show – SDSU-IV Palm Oasis Stage

Buildings and gates close at 10 p.m.

HOMELESS

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who may pose a risk to themselves or others, he said. The program is optional and just over half of California's 58 counties participate.

The governor said under his proposal, people would have a say in their treatment plan and have a public defender to represent them. Most importantly, the proposal allows a broader array of people, including family member or first responder, to refer the person for help, he said. Care could last up to 24 months.

But the idea of compelling treatment rattled some, and the California State Association of

Counties objected to the requirements put on counties. Other groups called on the need for more resources, which Newsom has proposed for additional psychologists and treatment beds.

"At this point there are a million questions and a million things that could go horribly wrong," said Kevin Baker, director of government relations for ACLU California, in an email. He said homelessness is caused by skyrocketing housing costs "and we won't solve homelessness, mental health, or substance abuse problems by locking people up and drugging them against their will."

The Western Center on Law and Poverty pointed to a 2020 state audit

that found many people put under conservatorship wound up with limited treatment and follow-up while the San Francisco Public Defender's Office called the proposal a "band-aid" approach falling short of the fully funded mental health system California needs.

"As it stands, because of the drastic under-funding of our mental healthcare system, our clients are waiting (anywhere from) nine weeks to six months in jail for treatment," the office said in a statement.

Still, others say that mandated treatment is necessary for some who are too sick to realize they need care.

In San Francisco, a state law designed to get more people into conservator-

ships has resulted in just two people being forced into care, said Rafael Mandelman, a city supervisor who has watched helplessly as homeless residents languish outdoors.

He would welcome more money for emergency psychiatric treatment beds and staffing. But he also says there needs to be a major change in both the deployment of resources and in the way judges think.

"We also clearly need better systems that are able to respond to the needs of this population much better," he said, "and we need laws that are clear to judges, and that reflect the expectations of the community."

Obituaries

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