

In today's 300th #vatniksoup, I'll go through some of the most heroic feats that Ukrainians have achieved since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

In the last 900 days, under-equipped underdog Ukraine has fared well against the imperialist and genocidal Russia.

1/23



As in most conflicts, Ukraine relies heavily on leadership. For this reason, the Kremlin first focused their main propaganda efforts on Zelenskyy, even claiming that he had already fled from Ukraine to Poland. Soon after these allegations, Zelenskyy and his cabinet...



Tass

RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY

26 FEB 2022, 15:09

Zelensky hastily fled Kiev, Russian State Duma Speaker claims

"He fled to Lvov with his entourage, where he and his assistance were provided with accommodation," the speaker said

MOSCOW, February 26. /TASS/. Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky hastily fled Kiev on Friday and is currently in Lvov with his entourage, Russian State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin stated in his Telegram channel Saturday.

"Zelensky hastily fled Kiev. He was not in the Ukrainian capital yesterday already. He fled to Lvov with his entourage, where he and his assistance were provided with accommodation," the speaker said, adding that all videos published in the social media were recorded in advance.

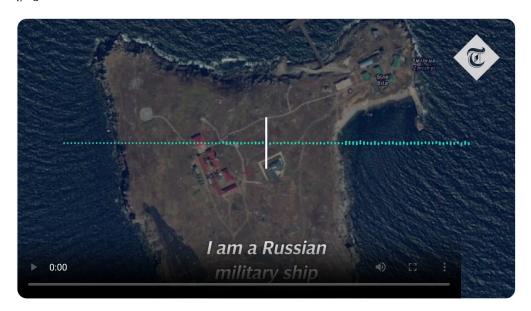
"The information comes from Verkhovna Rada lawmakers who tried to meet with [Zelensky] in Kiev. They were invited to Lvov for a meeting. Zelensky is currently under protection of neo-Nazis," he added.

... published a video from the streets of Kyiv to fight this propaganda campaign. This video quickly became one of the biggest morale boosters for Ukraine, and it has become one of the most legendary and symbolic videos of the Russo-Ukrainian War.



On the first day of the invasion, Russian navy captured the strategically located Snake Island. Russian cruiser Moskva contacted the Ukrainian defenders, calling them to surrender. This was met with the legendary reply, "Russian warship, go fuck yourself".

4/23



Even though the Russians took over the island, Ukrainians later got their revenge: Ukrainians re-captured it, and Moskva, the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, was sent to the bottom of the sea and the incident was commemorated with an official postal stamp.

Ukraine

• This article is more than 2 years old

Ukraine pushes Russian forces from strategic Snake Island

Winning back vital Black Sea island could weaken any future Russia coastal land attack

Russia-Ukraine war - live updates

Isobel Koshiw

Thu 30 Jun 2022 17.33 CEST





■ 'Significant' Snake Island victory changes situation in Black Sea, says Zelenskiy - video

Ukrainian forces have pushed Russian forces from Snake Island, a strategic Black Sea island off the southern coast near the city of Odesa.

ВВС

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Russian warship: Moskva sinks in Black Sea

15 April 2022 Sha



The Moskva patrolling the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Syria

A Russian warship that was damaged by an explosion on Wednesday has sunk, Russia's defence ministry has said.



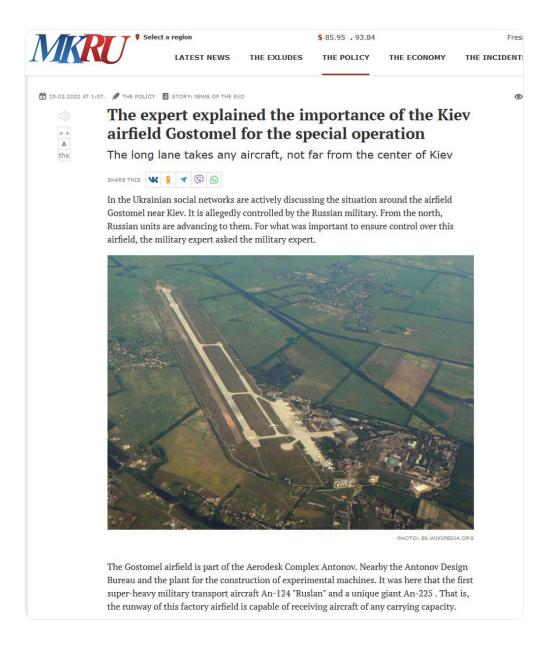
Russians initially planned to take over Kyiv and overthrow the government in 3 days. This plan included the capture of the Hostomel (or Antonov) Airport that is located less than 10km from Kyiv. Its quick capture would've allowed Russia to airlift troops...

SMART BOMBS: MILITARY, DEFENSE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Pictures: In Battle For Hostomel, Ukraine Drove Back Russia's Attack Helicopters And Elite Paratroopers







...and heavier equipment to threaten the Ukrainian capital. Russia sent their elite VDV troops for the operation, but the Ukrainians were ready and encircled the Russian soldiers. The airport was eventually captured by the Russians, but it was too damaged to be used as an...



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The heavy losses of an elite Russian regiment in Ukraine

2 April 2022

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Mark Urban Diplomatic and defence editor, Newsnight



Some of the 39 Russian soldiers from the 331st regiment who are known to have died

In any war, there are units that distinguish themselves and others that become symbolic of failure. The 331st Guards Parachute Regiment had high hopes of being the first, but now represents the disintegration of Russia's plan for a quick war.

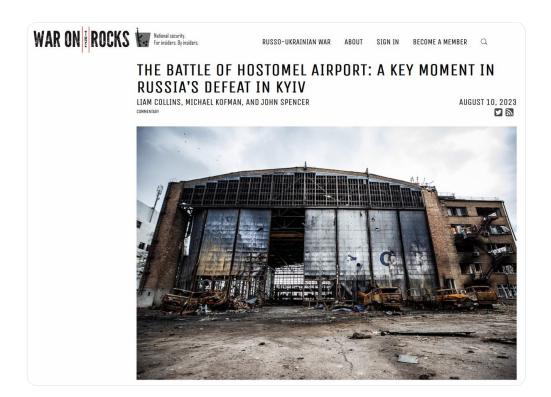


If the Russian assault went as planned, Antonov could be used to land thousands of additional airborne soldiers and their light armored vehicles by cargo plane, allowing Russian troops to begin tightening the noose around the Ukrainian capital even before Russian mechanized armies fought their way in.

...airstrip and the Russian plan of capturing Kyiv was quickly foiled. Atlantic Council stated that Ukraine's ability to defend the airport "possibly prevent[ed] a rapid capture" of Kyiv. RUSI associate director @JEyal_RUSI described it as "a turning point" in the war.

8/23

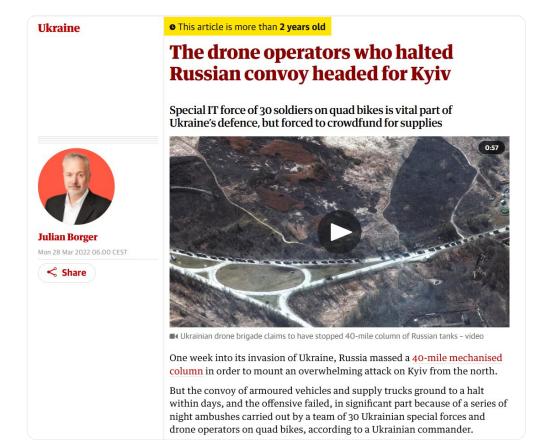
Battle for Hostomel (the Battle of Antonov Airport). On February 24 and 25, Russia and Ukraine fought a ferocious battle for Antonov Airport in Hostomel, just ten kilometers northwest of Kyiv. Russia conducted a large air assault to take control of the airfield, but Ukrainian forces held throughout February 24. According to Ukrainian sources, during the battle, eighteen IL-76 Candid cargo aircraft took off from Pskov Airport in Russia and were heading to Antonov Airport, likely loaded with either paratroopers or heavy equipment to support the paratroopers. We surmise the airlifed force was designed to help spearhead the Russian attack on Kyiv. The Ukrainian defense of the airfield on February 24 slowed the advance on Kyiv, possibly preventing a rapid capture of the capital. The Russians eventually took control of the airfield on February 25, but reporting indicated that the airfield was heavily damaged and nonoperational.



During this time, Russia was also sending a 64 kilometer long column of military equipment towards Hostomel. This convoy was stalled at around 30km from Kyiv due to food and fuel shortages, weather and Ukrainian attacks, especially those made with Turkish Bayraktar



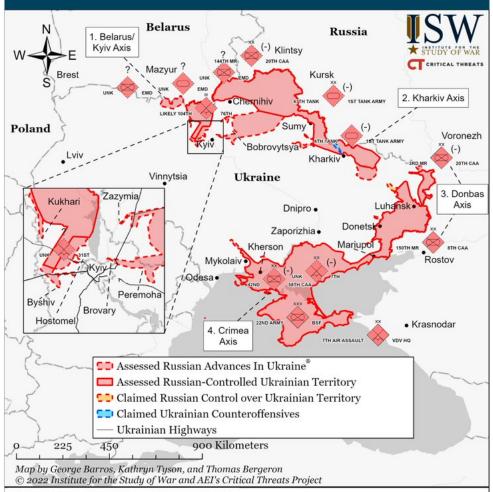






Even with the convoy eventually retreating, the situation looked quite dire for Ukraine - on 5 Mar 2022, Russia had captured large swathes of land in Northern, Eastern and Southern Ukraine. One of the most brutal battles was fought in Mariupol, where heroic Ukrainians...

Assessed Control of Terrain in Ukraine and Main Russian Maneuver Axes as of March 5, 2022, 3:00 PM EST



Confirmed Russian units in the past 24 hours:

The 488th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the 144th Motorized Rifle Division of the 20th Combined Arms Army attacked Kharkiv Oblast.

Elements of the 150th Motorized Rifle Division attacked Donetsk Oblast.

Elements of the 43rd Separate Naval Assault Aviation Regiment attacked Mykolaiv Oblast.

Elements of the 70th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the 5th Combined Arms Army (CAA) of the Eastern Military District attacked either Kyiv or Chernihiv Oblast.

Elements of the 49th CAA, 22nd Army Corps, and the 7th Airborne Assault Division attacked in the direction of Mariupol and Zaporizhia.

^{*} Assessed Russian advances are areas where ISW assesses Russian forces have operated in or launched attacks against but do not control.

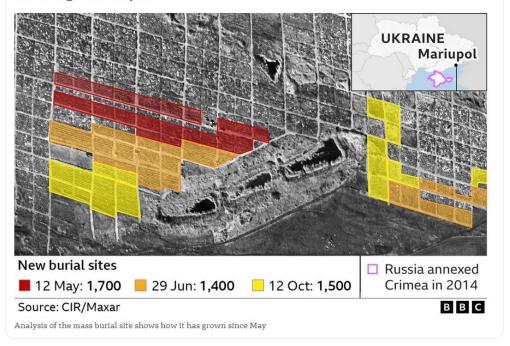


...held against a Russian siege for almost three months. According to the Red Cross, the situation in the city was "apocalyptic", & Ukrainian officials estimated that around 25k civilians had been killed & 95% of the city had been destroyed,mostly by the Russian bombardment.



Ukrainian officials now believe that at least 25,000 people were killed in the fighting in Mariupol, and that 5,000-7,000 of them died under the rubble after their homes were bombed. Mariupol had a pre-war population of nearly 500,000.

Witnesses in Mariupol have told the BBC that they have seen the Russian authorities removing bodies from the rubble of destroyed buildings in the city over recent months and taking them away for burial.



The Ukrainian defenders, including soldiers from the Azov Regiment, finally retreated to the Azovstal steel plant, which Putin ordered to be blockaded. The brave defenders finally gave up on 16 May 2022, when their food and water supplies were running dangerously low.







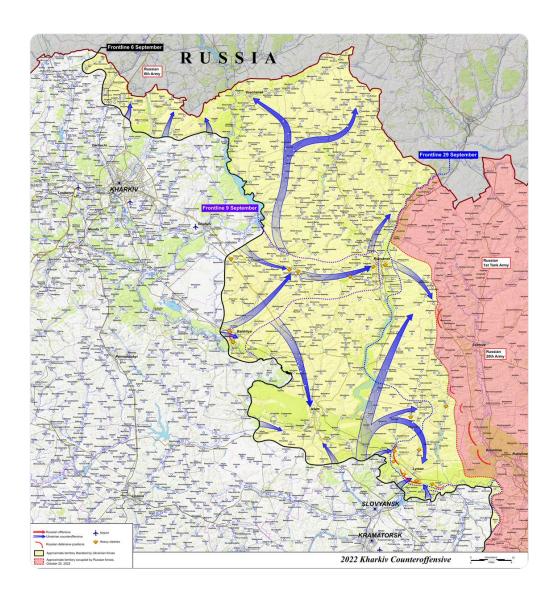
In the autumn of 2022, Ukraine launched two major counteroffensives - one in Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts, and the second in Kharkiv oblast. The former concluded by Nov 2022, after Ukrainians had liberated 1170 square kilometers of land and recaptured the city of Kherson.





In Kharkiv oblast, Ukrainians advanced nearly 50kms in just three days. According to ISW, Ukrainians recaptured around 2500 square kms of land.

Journalist Harald Stutte stated that Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander of the offensive, had





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Ukraine counter-offensive: Russian forces retreat as Ukraine takes key towns

10 September 2022

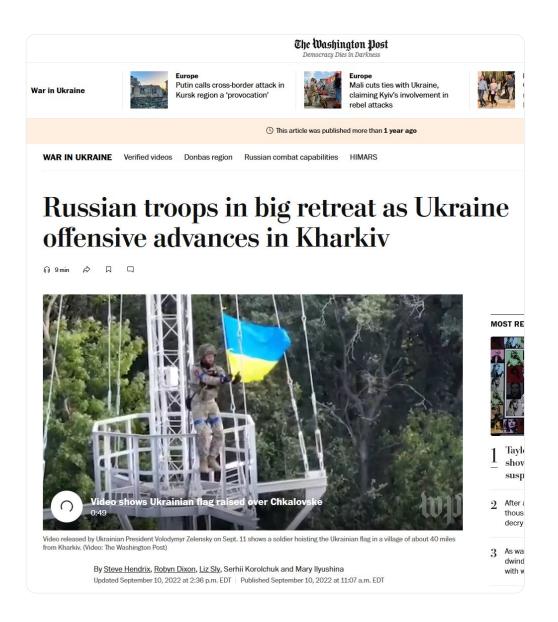


Hugo Bachega in Kyiv and Matt Murphy in London



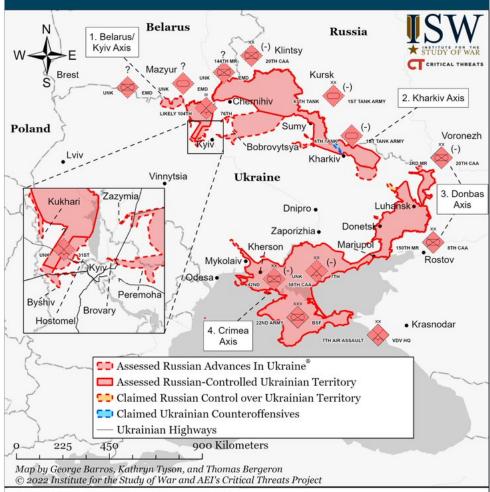
Watch: Ukrainian military enter key city of Kupiansk

Russian forces have withdrawn from key eastern towns, as a rapid Ukrainian counter-attack makes further gains.



These heroic feats can clearly be seen when you compare ISW's battle assessment maps from Mar 2022 and Aug 2024 - even though the frontlines have been static for a while, heroic Ukrainian defenders have managed to recapture large areas previously under Russian control.

Assessed Control of Terrain in Ukraine and Main Russian Maneuver Axes as of March 5, 2022, 3:00 PM EST



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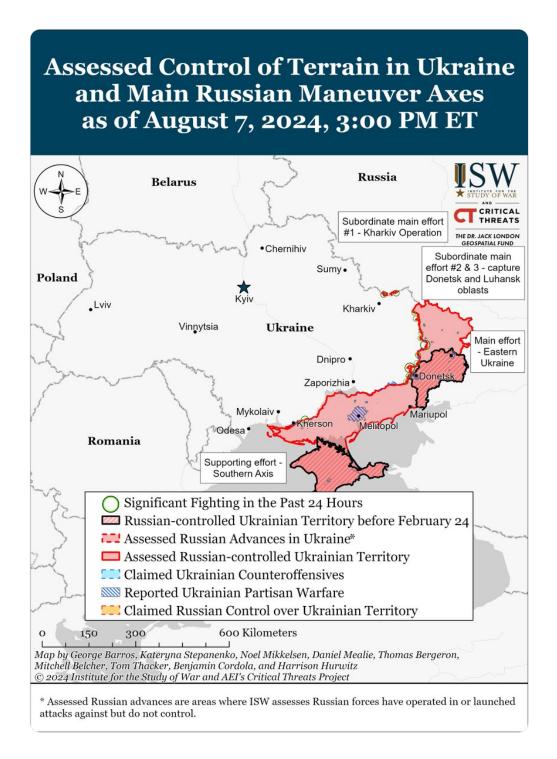
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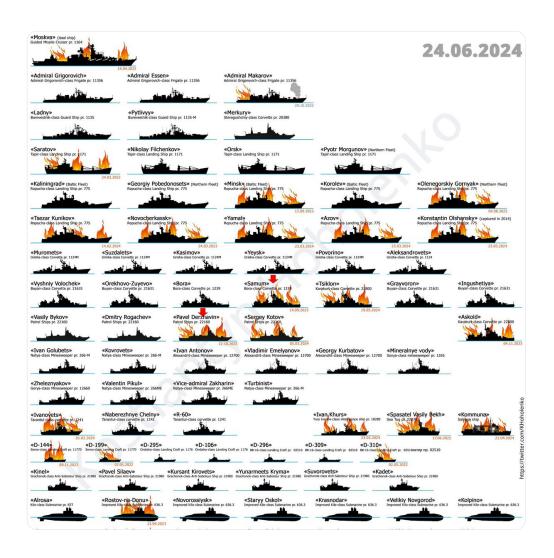
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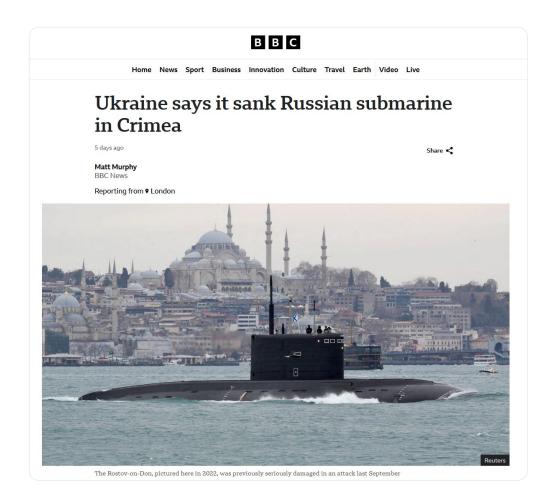
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Ukraine has also been extremely successful at sea, especially for a country with no significant navy! Their most successful operation was of course the sinking of Russian flagship Moskva, but they've also sunk several other large ships, and even Russian submarines.







Ukraine claims to have taken out a third of Russia's navy in the waters by attacking them with sea drones and subsonic Neptune cruise missiles. A while ago, Russians finally took the clue, and have now retreated their fleet from Crimea to safer waters.

BUSINESS INSIDER

MILITARY & DEFENSE

Russia's Black Sea Fleet is 'functionally inactive' after being pummeled hard by Ukraine, UK says

Mia Jankowicz Mar 25, 2024, 5:20 PM GMT+2





 $The \ landing \ ship \ Yamal \ returns \ to \ Sevastopol \ after \ performing \ operations \ in \ the \ Mediterranean \ Sea. \ \underline{Russian}$ Ministry of Defense

- The UK said Russia's Black Sea Fleet is 'functionally inactive' after Ukraine hit two of its ships.
- UK Defence Minister Grant Shapps appeared to confirm Ukraine's most recent strikes on two vessels.



BUSINESS INSIDER

The 'humiliating' retreat of Russia's fleet from Crimea proves its threats don't mean anything, expert says

Thibault Spirlet Jul 18, 2024, 1:49 PM GMT+3



Russian Navy's guided missile cruiser Moskva sailed back into a harbor in the port of Sevastopol, Crimea, in 2021. REUTERS/Alexev Pavlishak

- Russia has pulled its last Black Sea Fleet warship from Crimea, per a Ukrainian navy spokesperson.
- The retreat exposes the emptiness of Russia's red lines and nuclear threats, a Ukraine expert said.

Even though Ukraine has been hindered by its Western allies, Ukrainians have finally started attacking targets deep in the Russian territory. These include oil refineries, airbases, ammo depots and military quarters.

Following is a chronology of some of the main <u>drone strikes</u> on Russian oil refineries and infrastructure this year.

- June 18 A drone attack set ablaze oil storage sites in Russia's southern Rostov region.
- June 14 Debris from a downed drone damaged an unused reservoir at a fuel depot in Russia's <u>Voronezh</u> region.
- June 6 A fire was extinguished at the Novoshakhtinsk oil refinery in Russia's Rostov region which had been attacked by a drone.
- May 20 Slavyansk oil refinery was attacked by a drone.
- May 18 The Importpischeprom oil products terminal at Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiisk resumed fuel loadings after suspending operations following a $\underline{\text{drone attack}}$ a day earlier, according to industry sources and LSEG data.
- May 17 <u>Tuapse</u> oil refinery on the Black Sea was attacked by drones for at least the second time this year.
- May 12 Volgograd oil refinery, which has a production capacity of some 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), caught fire following a drone strike.
- May 10 A drone attacked the Pervyi Zavod refinery in Russia's <u>Kaluga</u> region, following an earlier attack on March 15.
- May 9 <u>Gazprom Neftekhim Salavat</u> oil processing, petrochemical and fertiliser complex in the Bashkortostan region stopped its catalytic cracker after being attacked by a drone. The Salavat complex refinery runs were 130,000 bpd in 2023.
- April 1 A drone struck Russia's Taneco <u>refinery</u>. In 2023, it processed 340,600 bpd of crude oil, the third largest volume among Russian refineries after Omsk and Kirishi.
- March 23 A fire broke out at the Kuibyshev refinery after a Ukrainian drone attacked it. In 2023, it processed 73,700 bpd of oil.

March 18 - The <u>Slavyansk refinery</u> caught fire after a drone attack. It has a capacity of around 100,000 barrels per day.

March 16 - The Syzran oil refinery, controlled by Rosneft (ROSN.MM) ☑, burned for hours before the fire was brought under control after a strike by Ukrainian drones. The refinery has a production capacity of 170,000 bpd, but its actual runs have been lower. In 2023 it processed about 100,000 bpd.

March 15 - An oil refinery in the <u>Kaluga</u> region south of Moscow was attacked with drones, causing damage. Its primary processing unit's capacity is 1.2 million tons per year - roughly 24,000 barrels per day.

March 13 - The Novoshakhtinsk oil refinery, in Russia's southern Rostov region, suspended operations after downed drones crashed onto the site, but resumed operations later in the day. Oil processing at the refinery in 2023 averaged around 96,000 barrels per day.

March 13 - The Ryazan oil refinery was set ablaze after a drone attack. It's capacity stands at around 317,000 bpd.

March 12 - A drone was destroyed on the outskirts of Kirishi, home to Surgutneftegaz's (SNGS.MM) [2] Kirishinefteorgsintez (KINEF) refinery. The Kirishi complex is one of the top two refineries in Russia. It refines about 355,000 bpd of Russian crude.

March 12 - A fire broke out at NORSI, Russia's fourth largest refinery, after a drone attack. NORSI refines about 317,000 bpd of Russian crude a year. Lukoil also said in January that it had halted a unit at its refinery due to an unspecified incident.

Feb. 9 - A <u>fire</u> broke out at the Ilsky refinery in Russia's southern Krasnodar region and was extinguished in about two hours. Its refining capacity is 6.6 million metric tons of crude oil per year, equating to 132,000 bpd.

Jan. 26 - The Tuapse oil refinery in southern Russia halted oil processing and output following a fire. The Tuapse plant's capacity is 240,000 barrels per day.

Jan. 21 - Ust-Luga Complex was <u>forced to suspend</u> some operations at the huge Baltic Sea fuel export terminal at Ust-luga as well as "technological processes" at a nearby fuel-producing complex due to a fire, started by what Ukrainian media said was a <u>drone attack</u>. In 2023 the Ust-Luga complex processed 7 million tons of gas condensate (156,000 bpd).



May 29, 2024 11:01 GMT By Todd Prince

Russia Has Taken Steps To Protect Its Oil Refineries. Ukraine Is Still Hitting Them.





Black smoke billows after a drone strikes a refinery in Ryazan, Russia, earlier this year



On 6 Aug 2024, Ukraine launched a surprise cross-border attack into Kursk, Russia. Ukrainians have taken control of the city of Sudzha, and have posted videos of "dozens, maybe hundreds, of Russian POWs". The objective of this so far successful incursion is still unclear.

Ukrainian Incursion into Kursk Oblast as of August 7, 2024, 3:00 PM ET Geolocated footage posted on **THREATS** August 6 and 7 shows Russian forces striking Ukrainian forces THE DR. JACK LONDON along a road north of Sverdilkovo. Malaya Loknya Snagost Lyubimovka **Kursk Oblast** (Russia) Obukhovka Sverdlikovo Geolocated footage published on Satellite imagery captured on August 6 August 6 and 7 shows Ukrainian shows fresh tank tracks north of the forces taking Russian prisoners of war international border. near the Sudzha border checkpoint. **Sumy Oblast** Guyevo (Ukraine) **Area of Detail** Claimed Limit of Advance (Not All Confirmed) Observed Ukrainian Forces Russian and Ukrainian Detained Russian Prisoners of War Russian Field Fortifications Ukraine 20 Kilometers 10 Map by Daniel Mealie, Benjamin Cordola, and George Barros © 2024 Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project

Ukraine

Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region continues into second day

Vladimir Putin convenes meeting with top officials as defence ministry acknowledges fighting is ongoing

Dan Sabbagh in Kyiv

Wed 7 Aug 2024 14.23 CEST





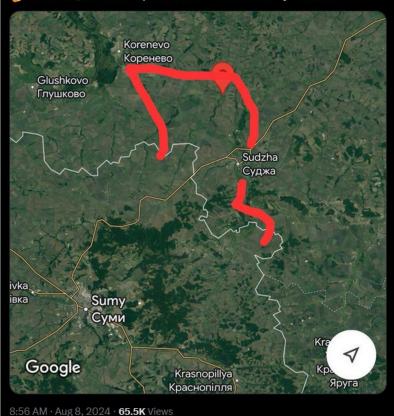
▲ An image published by the acting governor of the Kursk region, Alexei Smirnov, on his Telegram channel shows damaged homes in the town of Sudzha Photograph: Governor of Kursk region/AFP/Getty Images

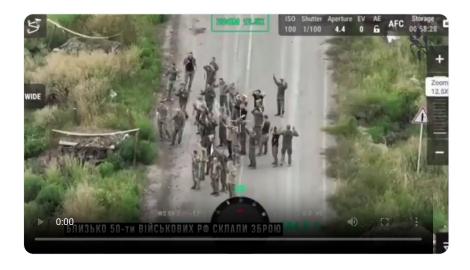
Ukraine's surprise incursion into Russia's Kursk region has continued into a second day, prompting Vladimir Putin to convene a meeting with his top defence and law enforcement officials.



Day three of the Ukrainian special military operation in Russia. What we know:

- Ukrainian forces are in control of all or most of the city of Sudzha, reached the outskirts of Korenevo, and overnight pushed north around Malaya Loknya, as per Russian military bloggers and analysts.
- Ukraine's General Staff maintains silence about the offensive and its goals
- Ukrainian soldiers post videos of dozens, maybe hundreds, of Russian POWs who surrendered in Kursk
- Documented losses inside Russia include several IFVs and APCs on the Ukrainian side, two tanks and two-three helicopters on the Russian side.
- (8) Is it a raid, or an attempt to hold and trade territory? Time will tell.





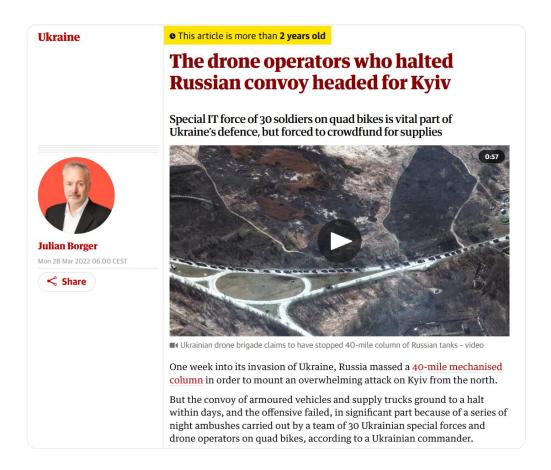
There have also been several feats of heroism done by individuals. For example, Vitaly Skakun who sacrificed his life by blowing a bridge before the Russians could cross it. Or the execution and iconic final words of Oleksandr Matsievskyi just before he was murdered.





We also shouldn't forget the resilience of Ukrainian civilians, who have been constantly bombarded by Russian missiles and Iranian drones. Many have lost their homes, yet they're still ready to help their country in any way they can, be it drone production or donations.

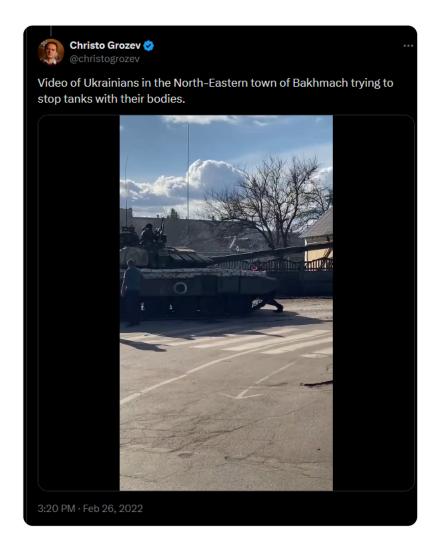




Regular Ukrainians have also often defied the invaders, like the grandma that gave a Russian soldier sunflower seeds, telling him that "at least the sunflower will grow when you die here", or the civilians who prevented Russians from invading the town of Sumy.







Ukraine has been extremely successful in its operations, and Ukrainians have shown tremendous heroism while defending their country against Russian invaders. No doubt, there would be much more success if Ukraine's allies in the West wouldn't worry so much about "escalation".



restrictions on Kyiv's use of weapons on Kremlin territory.

You can support Ukraine in their defense against genocidal Russia by donating to @U24_gov_ua:

