

**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE
SITUATION REPORT**

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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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Notes on Sourcing Information


Malcontent News uses a wide range of sources to create our daily Situation Report, the foundation for the Russian-Ukraine War Report Podcast. There are some notable sources that we frequently use and others that we don't. The most common sources currently, or in the past, we have used for the Theater of War section of the Situation Report include the following.


⚠️ **Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Report:** We use the RMOD Morning Report to identify combat reports, shelling locations, and territorial control change claims. We do not consider claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed valid without videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation, or third-party confirmation from recognized Western news outlets or trusted Ukrainian sources.


⚠️ **Rybar:** We consider Rybar a mercenary organization because they are staffed by former Russian Ministry of Defense public relations officers who actively provide target information to the Russian military. Their operational budget is \$20,000 a month, while they claim they receive no government funding. We use their reports and maps to identify combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. We do not use claims of Ukrainian troops killed, equipment destroyed, or military resources destroyed because of a documented and historical pattern of producing fabrications. They frequently engage in blatant misinformation and disinformation and consistently deny all Russian war crimes.


⚠️ **War Gonzo:** We consider War Gonzo a mercenary organization because their employees have recorded themselves actively engaging in direct combat, specifically in Marinka. Recently, War Gonzo admitted in their daily report to leveraging the information from the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. They intermix combat reports with their own on a 24-hour delay. We use their reports for **unique claims** about combat, territorial control change claims, and troop movement reports. Although the War Gonzo daily reports are moderately accurate, they occasionally engage in blatant disinformation and misinformation.

 **Readovka:** We consider Readovka to be a Kremlin-aligned propagandist organization. Their daily reports are a word-for-word repeat of the RMOD Morning Report and provide no value to our analysis. They occasionally provide credible information through videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

 **Igor "Girkin" Strelkov:** We consider Strelkov to be a convicted war criminal who is highly informed, specifically about the situation in the Donbas. We use his combat reports, territorial control change claims, and troop movement information. In the Donbas, we consider his reports to be highly accurate. The fidelity of information he provides in Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Kharkiv appears to come from other social media channels with a history of spreading misinformation and is of lower quality. Reports he shares outside of the Donbas provided by Russian Federation 1st Army Corps units have greater fidelity.

 **Andrei Morozov:** Morozov is a pro-Russian milblogger and a radio communications and logistics specialist with the Russian 2nd Army Corps. We consider him a provider of high-quality information, especially within his fields of specialty. In the fall of 2022, Morozov was detained by OMON for up to three weeks due to his content and has had his online material censored by the Kremlin several times over the last 11 months.

 **Private Military Company Wagner Group Social Media:** We consider reports from PMC Wagner of Russian victories as overstating gains and reports of Russian failures, particularly among the Russian Ministry of Defense and the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the Russian Army, as overstating problems. We do not consider claims of territorial control changes from Wagner as authentic without pictures, videos, or **unique** Russian State Media reports that include a video that can be geolocated.

 **Luhansk People's Republic Joint Center for Control and Coordination:** We only use their reports about large-scale artillery and HIMARS strikes in the occupied territories.

⊖ **Leonid Pasechnik:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic.

⚠ **Donetsk People's Republic People's Militia:** We only use their reports for videos and pictures that can be confirmed by date, time, weather, and geolocation.

⊖ **Donetsk People's Republic Territorial Defense:** We do not use combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from their public relations and social media channels. They have repeatedly engaged in misinformation and disinformation.

⊖ **Denis Pushilin:** We do not use any combat, territorial control changes, troop movements, casualty claims, or equipment destroyed claims from the self-declared leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

⚠ **Ramzan Kadyrov:** The contribution and impact of Chechen forces in Ukraine have become minimal, and Akhmat no longer produces large volumes of video content that can be geolocated. We continue to monitor his channels.

✅ **General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:** We consider the morning and evening reports, specifically combat reports, territorial control changes, and troop movements, from GSAFU to be high quality. The Ukrainian General Staff uses clever wording to create plausible deniability of battlefield failures. Combat reports start with "repelled attacks of the occupant forces in the vicinities of," which negates reporting fighting in areas where territory was lost. Instead of misinformation or disinformation, GSAFU engages in omission. Reports about problems within the Russian military are given more weight if the SBU or GUR reinforces them or if there is added confirmation in the Russian milblogger information space.

✅ **DeepState:** We use the Daily Report from DeepState for combat reports and territorial control changes. They frequently support their claims with geolocated, time, date, and weather-confirmed pictures and videos, making them a high-quality Ukrainian-based source. They occasionally overstate Russian territorial control claims but never present disinformation or

misinformation. Combined with the reports from GSAFU, gaps in combat reports are filled. We support DeepState through their Patreon at \$10 a month.

✔ **Institute for the Study of War:** We occasionally leverage the map and territorial control change information produced by the ISW when there is conflicting data. Their presentation of Russian-assessed, Ukrainian-assessed, and Russian-claimed information is helpful when our analysts have to make a judgment call due to the absence of verifiable information. We do not copy from their map but take their territorial control information as an additional data point when assessing our own changes.

⚠ **Ivan Fedorov:** We use information about insurgent activity and HIMARS strikes in Zaporizhia provided by Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitopol.

✔ **Vitaly Kim:** When there are reports of potential air raids in Ukraine, we monitor Kim, the Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor, for realtime reports. Kim is consistently one of the first, if not the first, Ukrainian government official to confirm kamikaze drones or missiles have been launched toward Ukraine.

⊖ **Oleksiy Arestovych:** We no longer use the information provided by Arestovych after being fired from his role as the Chief Advisor to the President of Ukraine. Before being terminated, Arestovych had developed a reputation for providing exaggerated, unverified, and false claims for Ukrainian successes and failures.



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SUMMARY – DAY 432

It has been 3,351 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 68 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine.

The map is back! [War Map](#)

DAILY ASSESSMENT

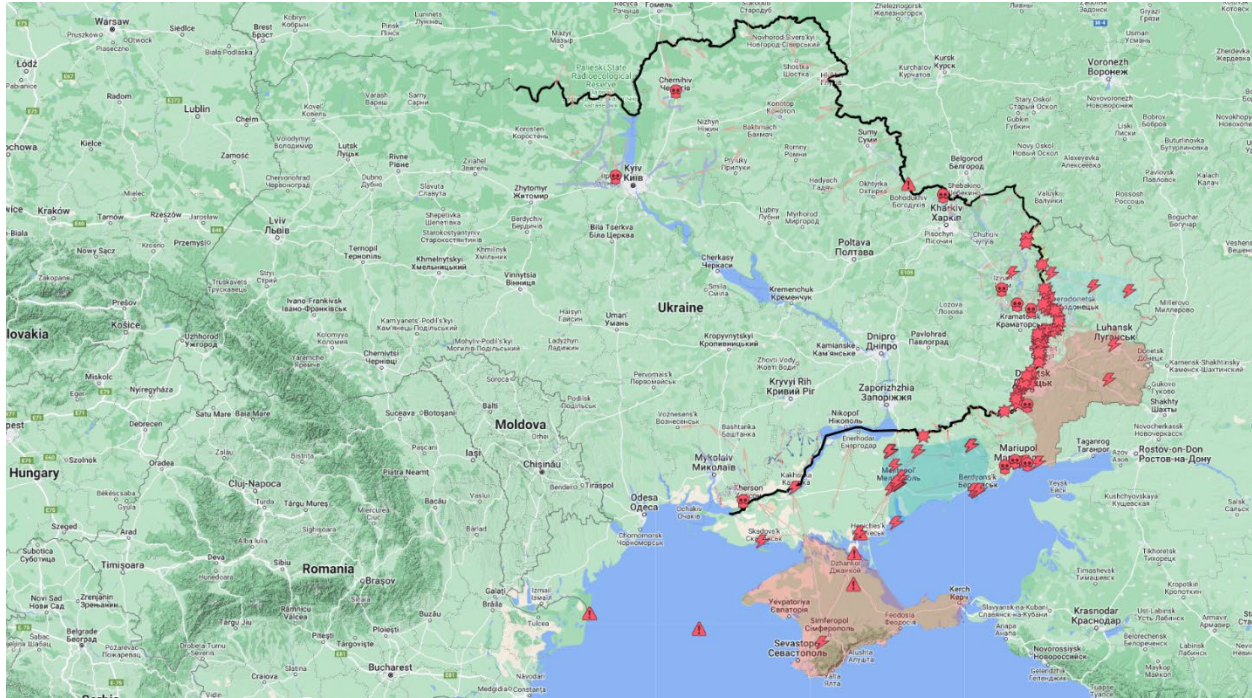
We assess the following:

1. Ukrainian forces continue to set conditions for a future offensive targeting surveillance, electronic warfare, and air defenses while using reconnaissance and reconnaissance in force to probe Russian defense in many locations.
2. Ukrainian forces continue to set conditions to complete its retrograde operation in Bakhmut and end its defense of the city.
3. Operational tempo has slowed throughout the theater of war, will less than 40 Russian attacks on May 2.
4. Long-range weather models indicate that ground conditions will be favorable for larger offensive operations using armor and mobility on or after May 10.
5. We maintain that Russian offensive operations in the Svatove and Kreminna Operational Areas have culminated. This is the last day of this entry.
6. The Russian Federation Armed Forces are combat ineffective and have exhausted their combat potential except in the Bakhmut Operational Area.
7. The use of alternative private military companies and the lack of support by Russian airborne (VDV) forces

caused PMC Wagner Group leader Yevgeny Prigozhin to lash out at the Kremlin, and Russian Ministry of Defense Morning Reports is no longer mentioning the PMC, indicating that the rift has reopened. This is the last day of this entry.

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TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

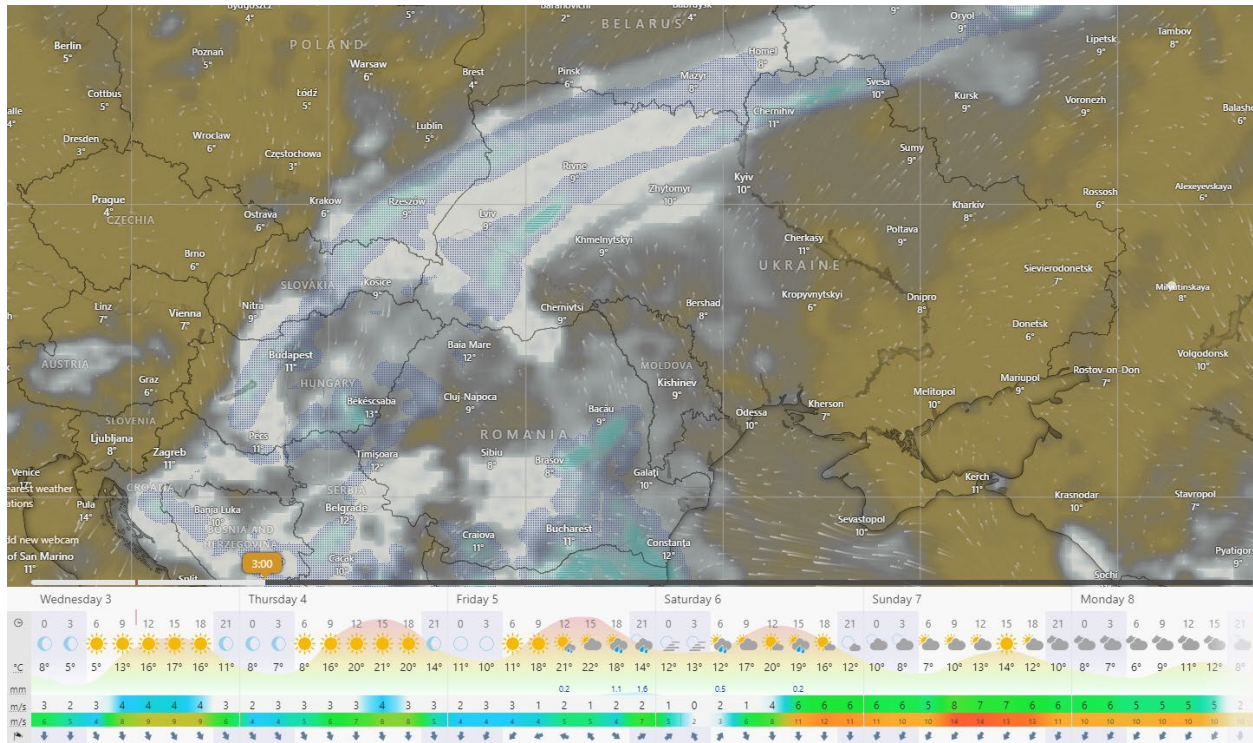


About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The archived offensive layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted [like this](#), it is a link to our war map that will take you to the location explained in the Situation Report.

[Russia-Ukraine War Report Map](#)

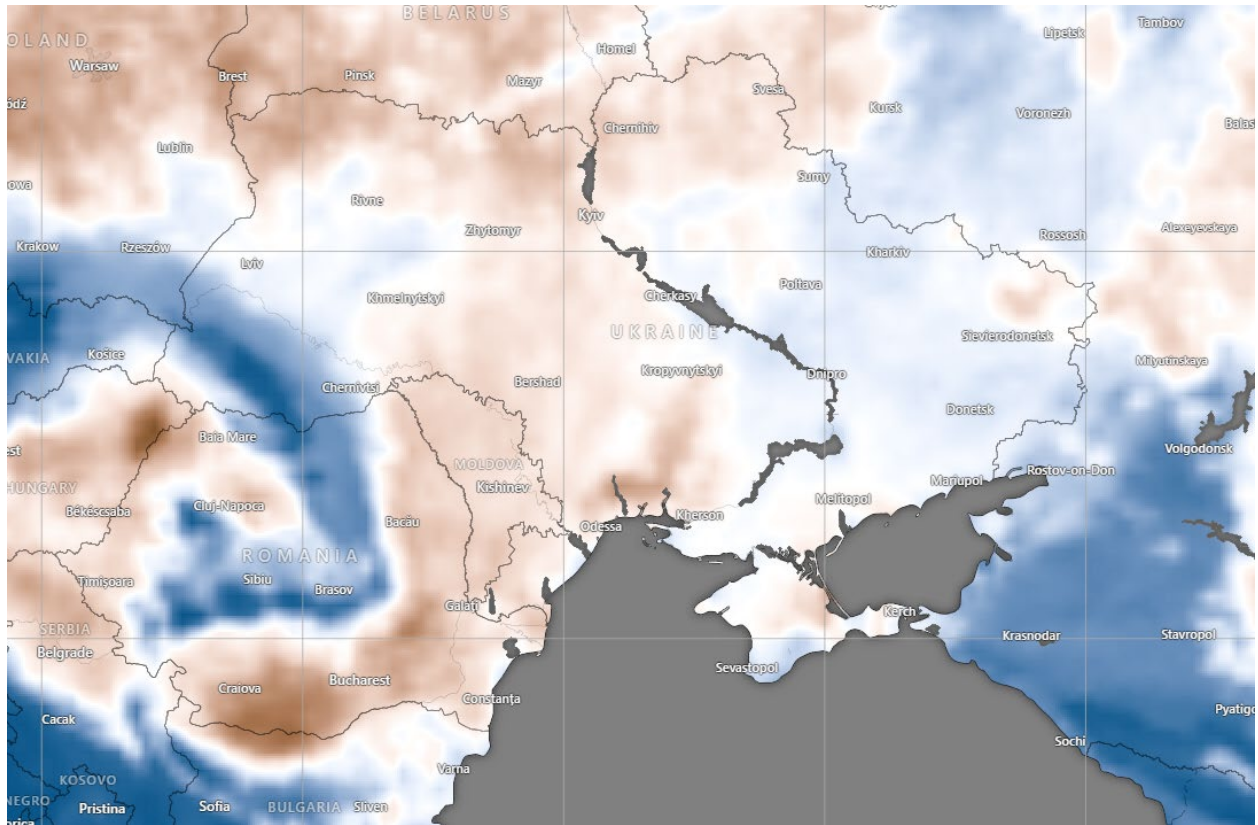


UKRAINE WEATHER



The current ECMWF Euro weather model forecasts a small chance of rain showers on Friday and Saturday in eastern Ukraine. Only 3 millimeters of rain is expected over 48 hours. Otherwise, sunny skies will give way to cloudy, cool, dry weather on Monday, May 8. Lows will be from 3° to 15° Celcius, with daytime highs from 9° to 26°. The coolest weather will be on Monday. It is still too early to conclude that Ukraine's spring rainy season has ended, but the data is encouraging.

SOIL SATURATION



May 10, 2023, GFS forecast showing a complex picture with 40% to 60% soil saturation to 40 centimeters depth in Zaporizhia and the Donbas.

Soil saturation along the line of conflict is at 70% to 90%, with an extended drying period now forecasted. Our assessment that May 10 would be the first day where soil saturation would support larger offensive operations utilizing mobility and armor was accurate. This does mean we have concluded that a large Ukrainian offensive will start on or about May 10.

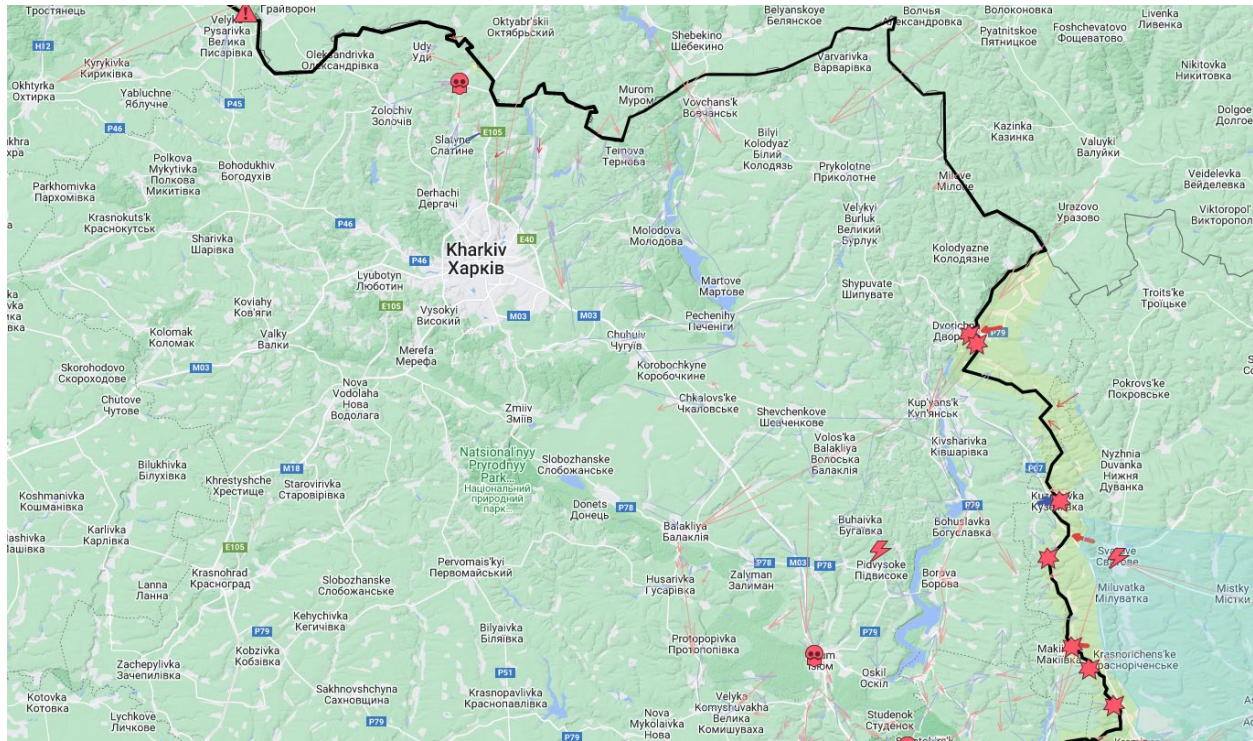


THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Paused

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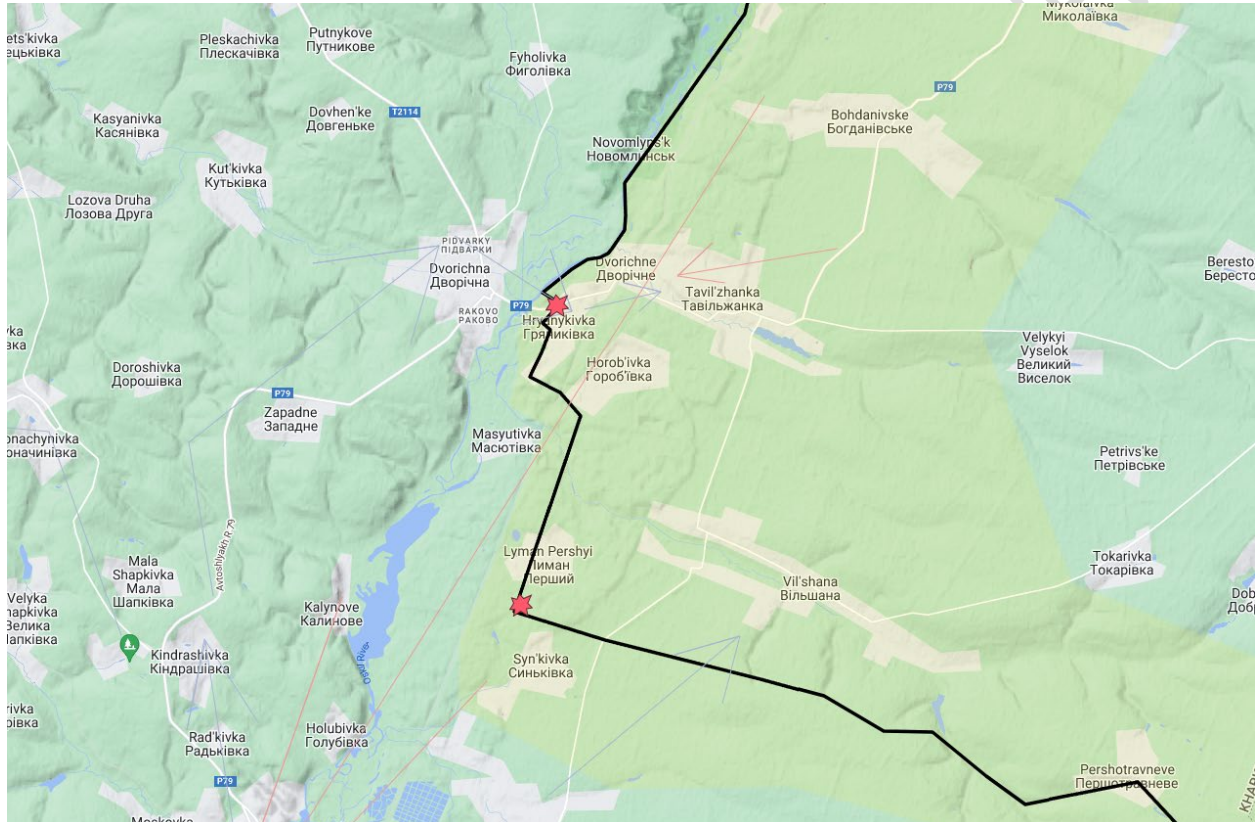
KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, hold current defensive lines, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians near the line of conflict

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the northeastern corner of the oblast, hold defensive lines in the Dvorichna and Kupyansk Operational Areas, protect civilians and civilian infrastructure

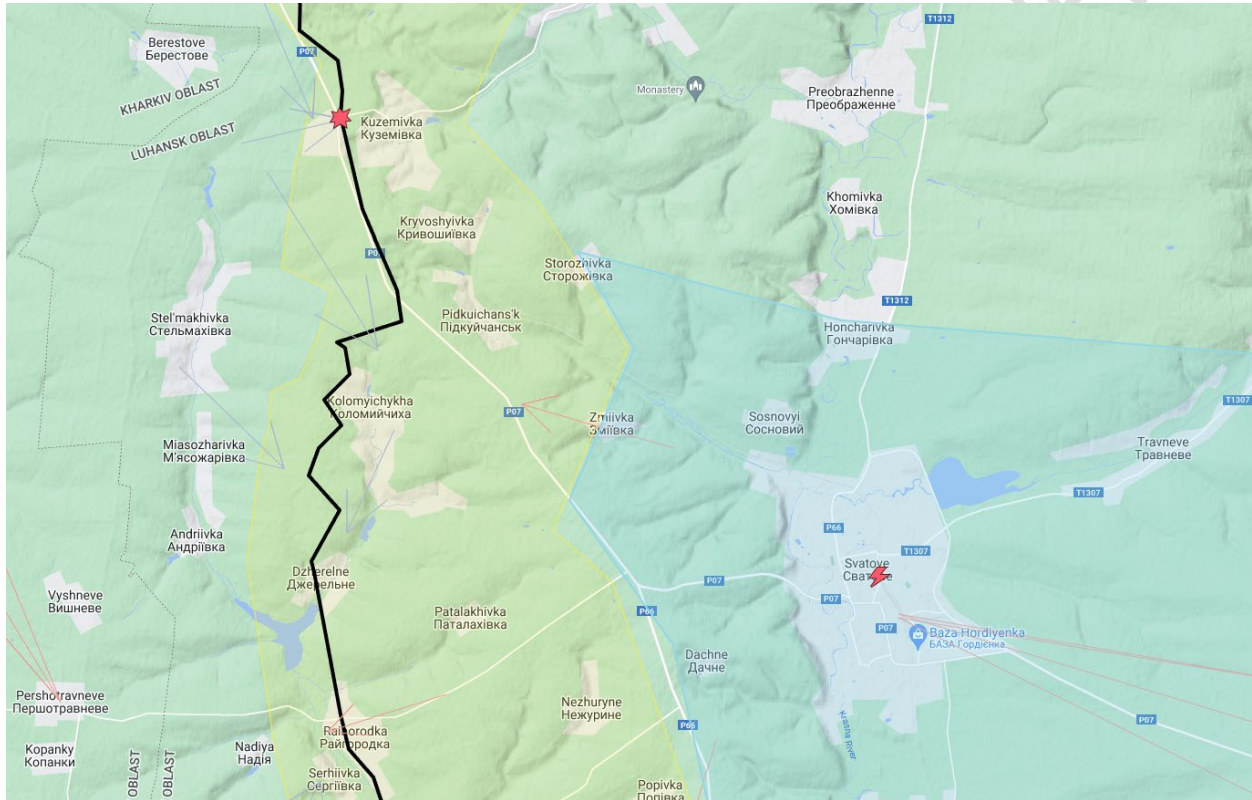
Kherson Oblast Administrative and Military Governor (OVA), Oleg Sinegubov, reported that fighting continued on the Kharkiv axis, with Ukrainian forces holding their positions.¹



In the Dvorichna Operational Area, Russian sources, the Russian Ministry of Defense (RMOD), and the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported that Ukrainian positions in [Lyman Pershyi](#) have been shelled for

¹ <https://t.me/synegubov/6103>

the sixth day in a row.^{2 3 4} RMOD reported that Ukrainian forces continued probing attacks using reconnaissance and reconnaissance in force near [Synivka](#).⁵



In the Svatove Operational Area of Kharkiv, RMOD also reported that Ukrainian reconnaissance units probed Russian defenses near [Berestove](#).⁶

² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

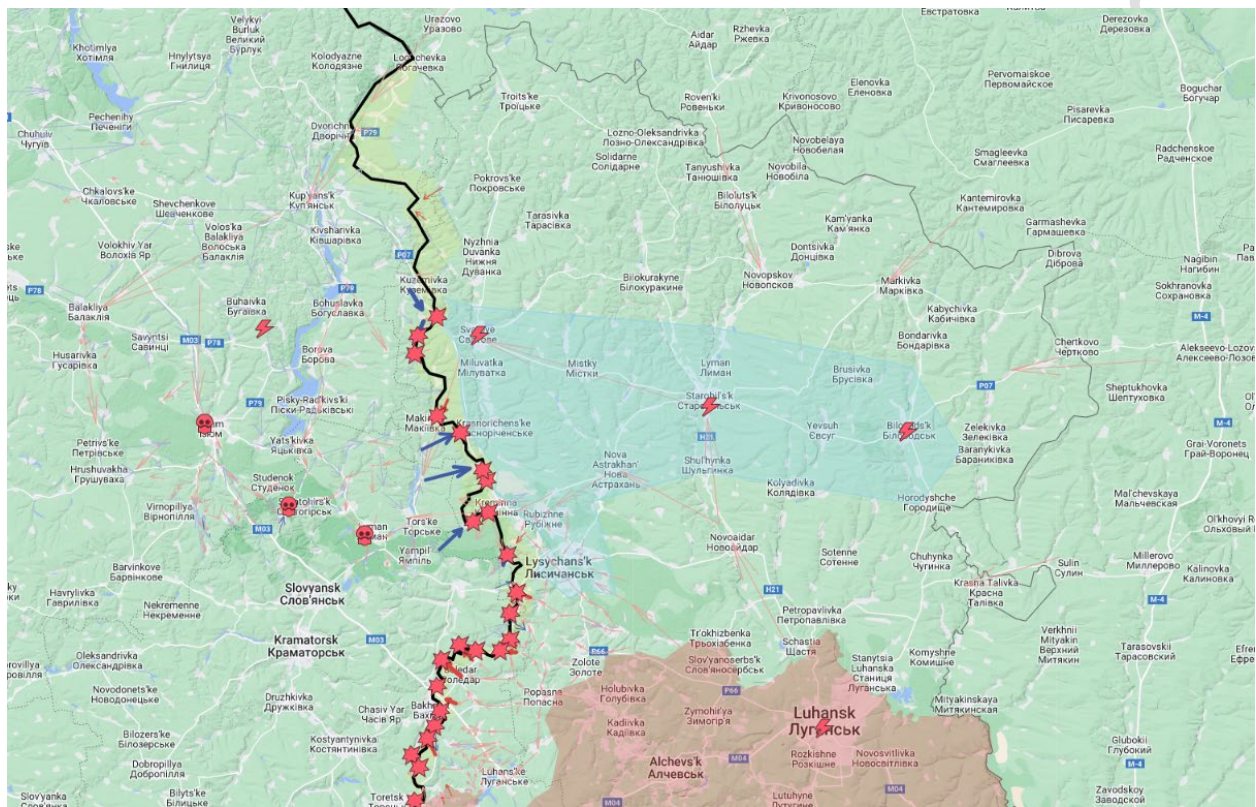
⁴ https://t.me/mod_russia/26125 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/26125 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/26125 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

DONBAS REGION

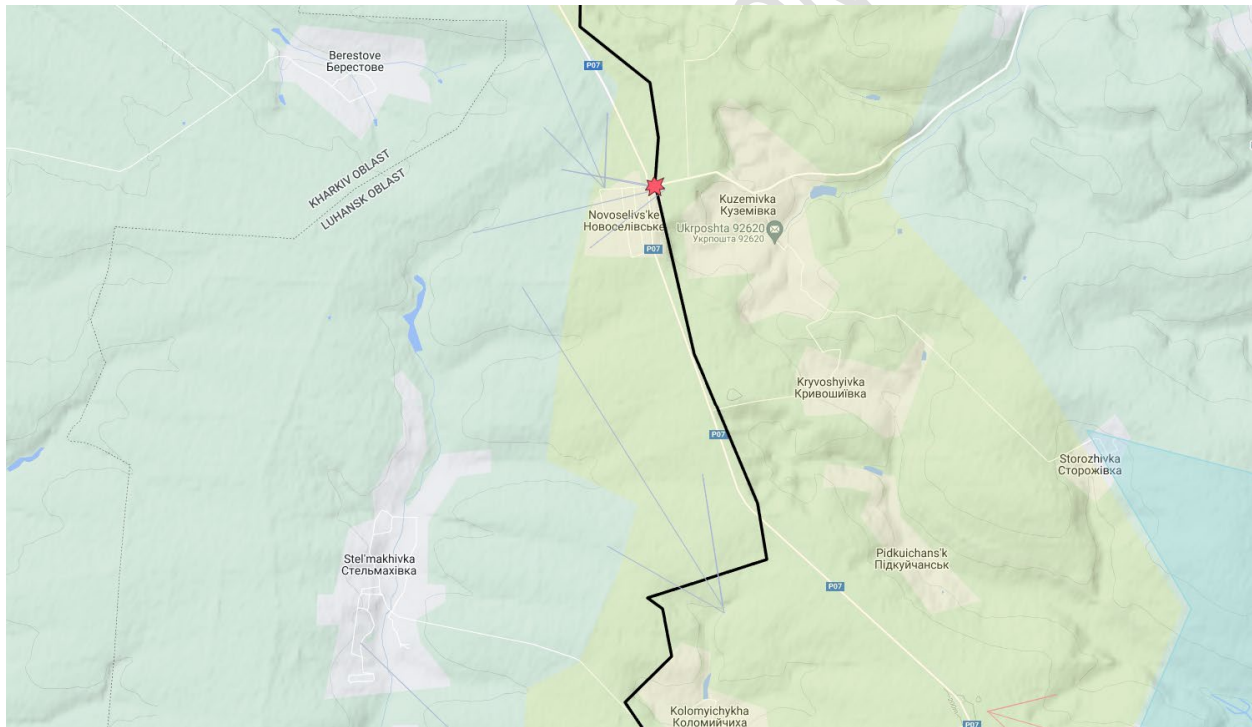
LUHANSK



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, prevent further Ukrainian advances, control insurgent activity

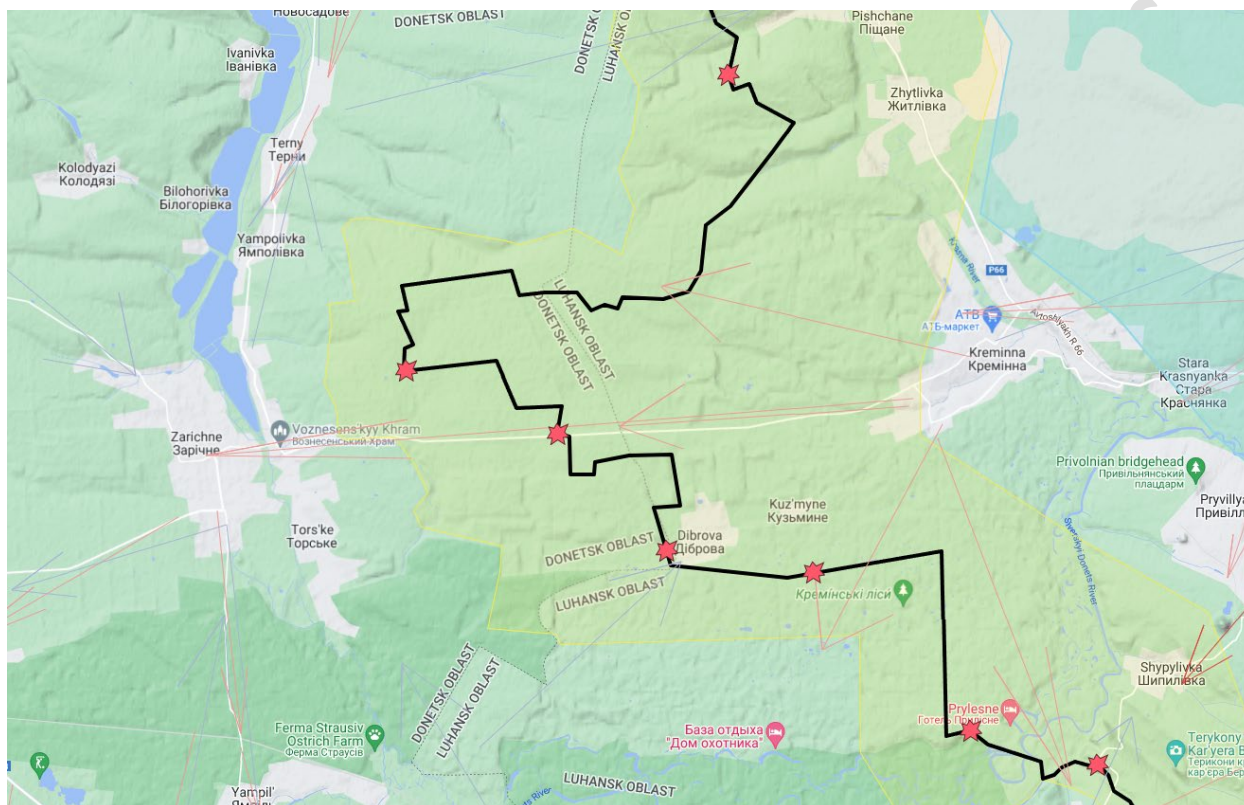
Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kremynna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents


Russia's push on Ukrainian defensive lines was short-lived but may have yielded some success near Kreminna. Operational Command East (OKE) spokesperson Serhiy Cherevaty reported four Russian attacks launched from Dvorichna in Kharkiv to Bilohorivka in Luhansk. Artillery fire increased, with Russian units firing 451 artillery rounds, mortars, and grad rockets.⁷



⁷ <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/10206>

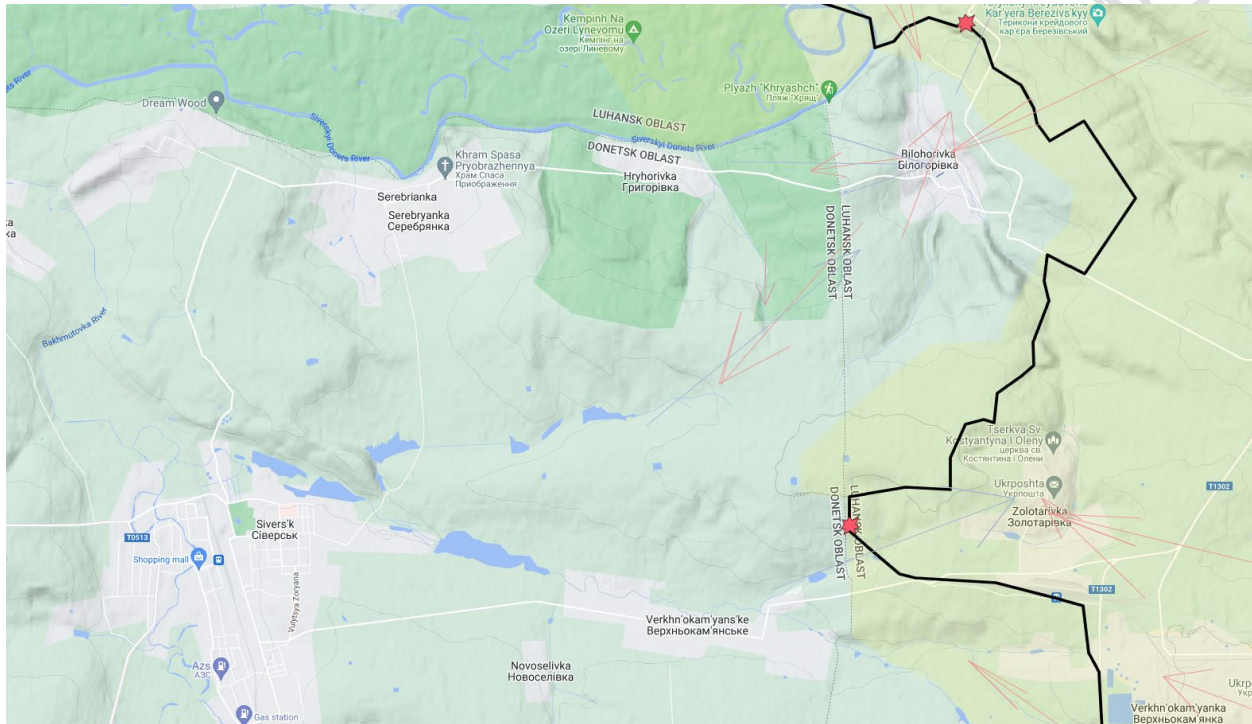
In the Svatove Operational Area of Luhansk, (GSAFU) reported a Russian attack on [Novoselivkse](#) was repulsed.⁸



In the Kreminna Operational Area, Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo reported that attempts to advance from the forested areas west of [Kreminna](#) toward Torske, Yampolivka, and Terny failed. A geolocated video  [showed Russian troops being shelled northeast of Torske](#), and based on the new intelligence, we adjusted the map, expanding the salient west of Kreminna [500 meters further](#)

⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

[south](#).⁹ GSAFU reported a Russian offensive south of [Dirbrova](#) failed.^{10 11}



In the Lysychansk Operational Area, positional fighting continued east of Bilohorivka [Luhansk], with Russian forces unable to move the line of conflict.^{12 13}

⁹ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1653387053889990656>

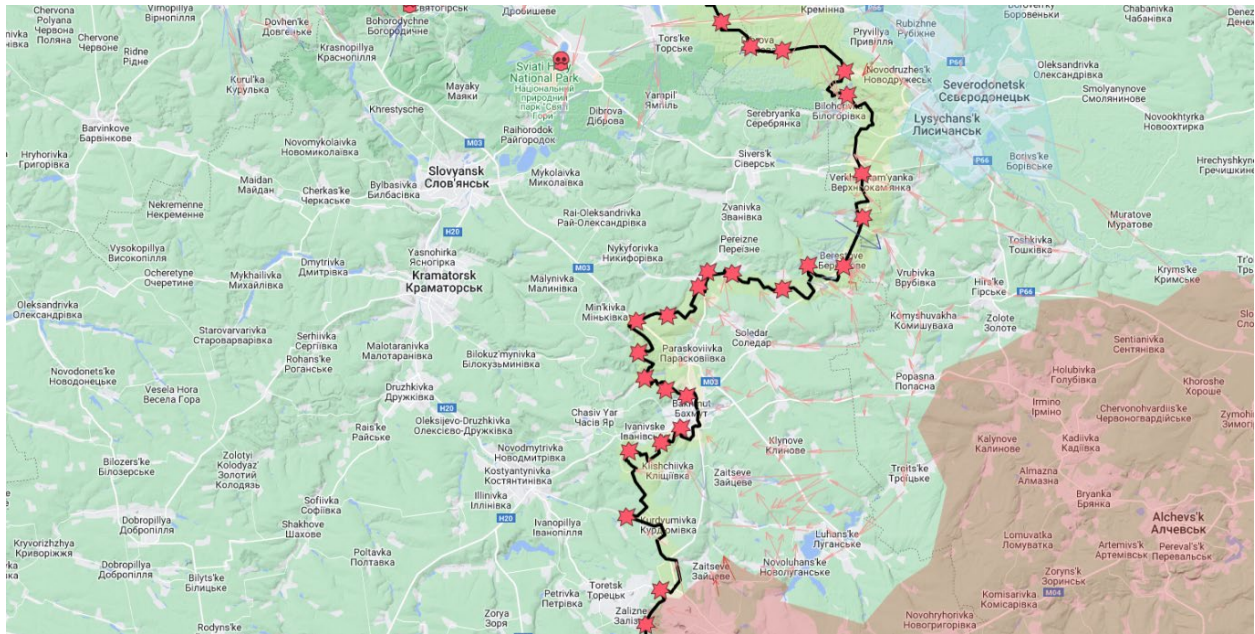
¹⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

¹¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/26125 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

¹³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>

NORTHEAST DONETSK




Russian Objective: Capture Bakhmut, set conditions to attack Kramatorsk, Slovyansk, and Siversk, and capture the entire region

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Siversk and Bakhmut, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties

The leader of PMC Wagner, Yevgeny Prigozhin, claimed that Russian forces killed Ukrainian Major General Ihor Tansyura, alleging he was in an M13 armored personnel carrier that was hit by Russian artillery on the T-504

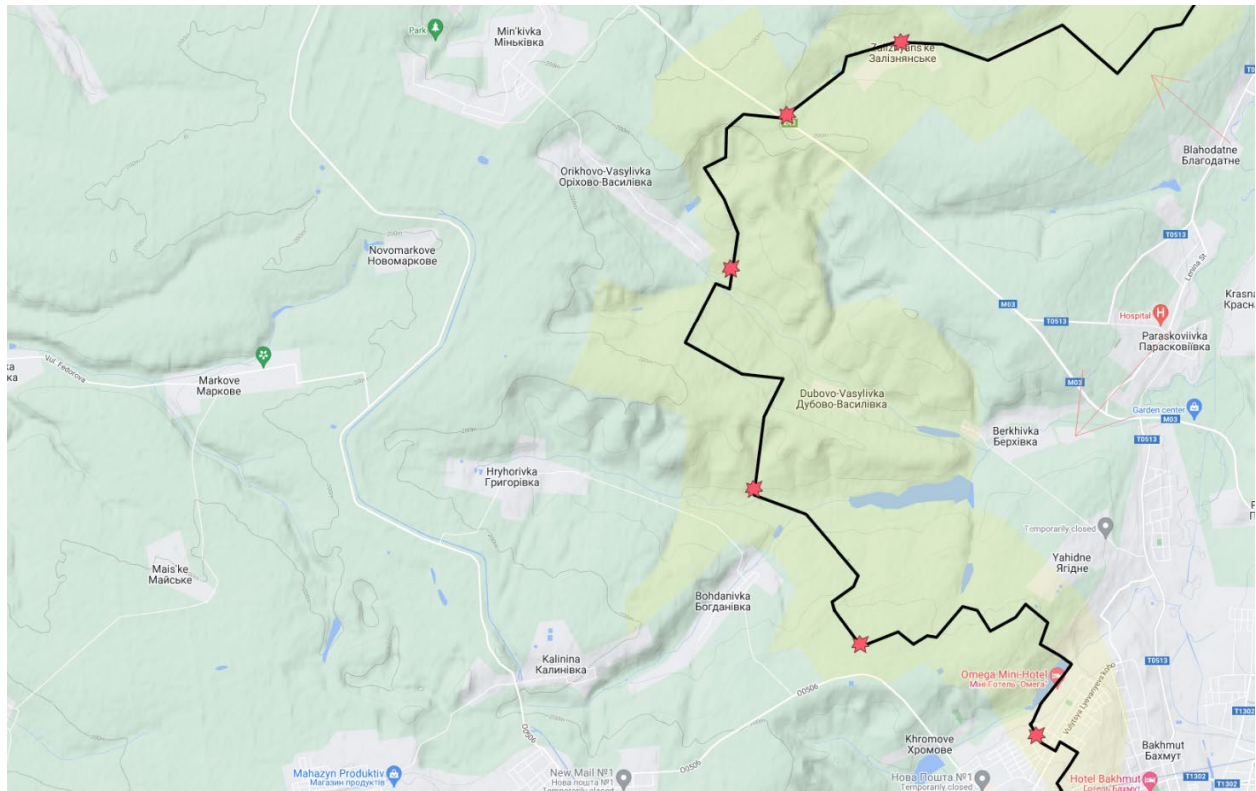
Highway Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line).¹⁴ A Ukrainian Territorial Defense Forces spokesperson, Denys Zelinskyi, told Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne that General Tansyura and all other senior leaders were alive and well.

Operational tempo was significantly reduced in Bakhmut, with Ukrainian forces taking advantage of PMC Wagner's inability to consolidate recently captured positions. Despite complaints of ammunition shortages,  [Russian artillery was more active](#), with RMOD reporting 74 fire missions and seven close air support missions conducted by Russian army aviation and the Airforce (VKS).^{15 16}

¹⁴ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/5764

¹⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/26125 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

¹⁶ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71879>



Northwest of Bakhmut, PMC Wagner attempted to advance on [Bohdanivka](#) and was unsuccessful.¹⁷

¹⁷ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>



In northern Bakhmut, fighting continued in the area of [Hospital Number 2](#), with Ukrainian forces and PMC Wagner mercenaries trading control of homes in the residential areas south of Rose Alley.



In the west-central part of Bakhmut, Ukrainian forces reportedly retook control of parts of the [medical college](#) and maintained control of the [industrial college](#) on Tchaikovsky Street.^{18 19 20 21 22}

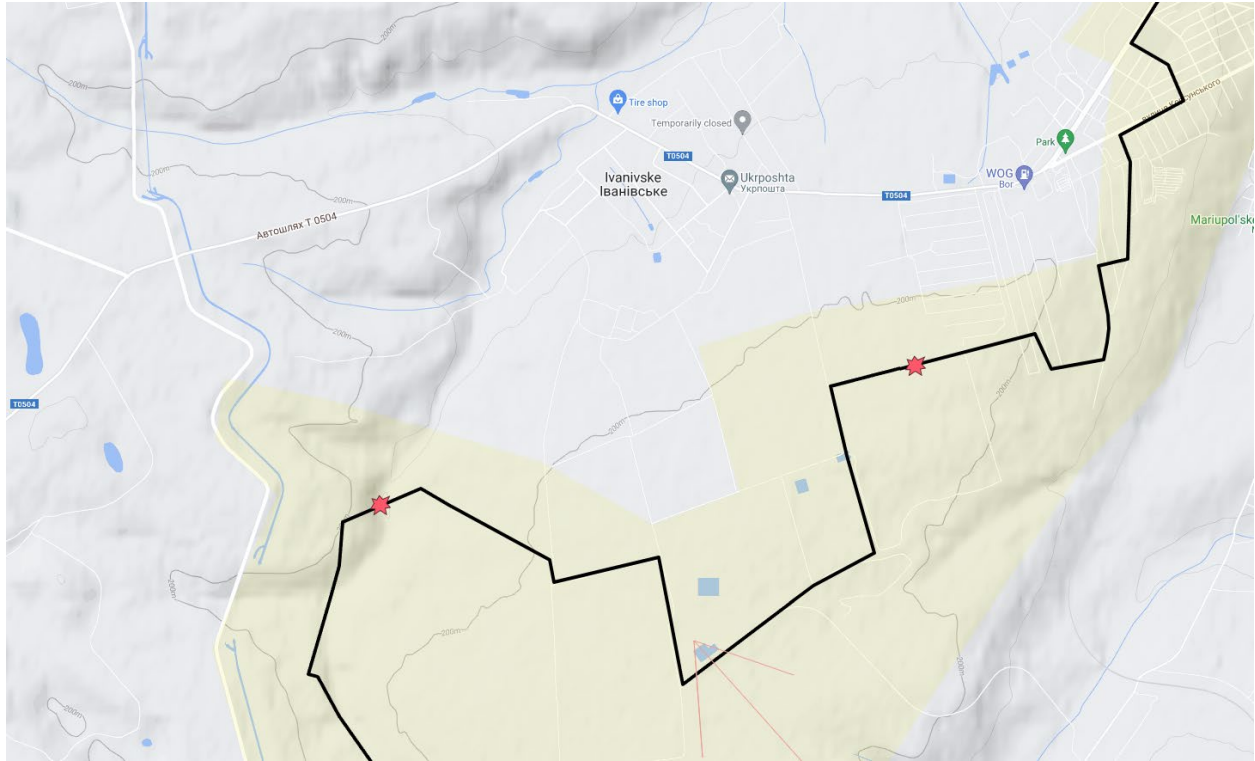
¹⁸ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16457>

¹⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>

²⁰ <https://twitter.com/UAControlMap/status/1653554542489870336>

²¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

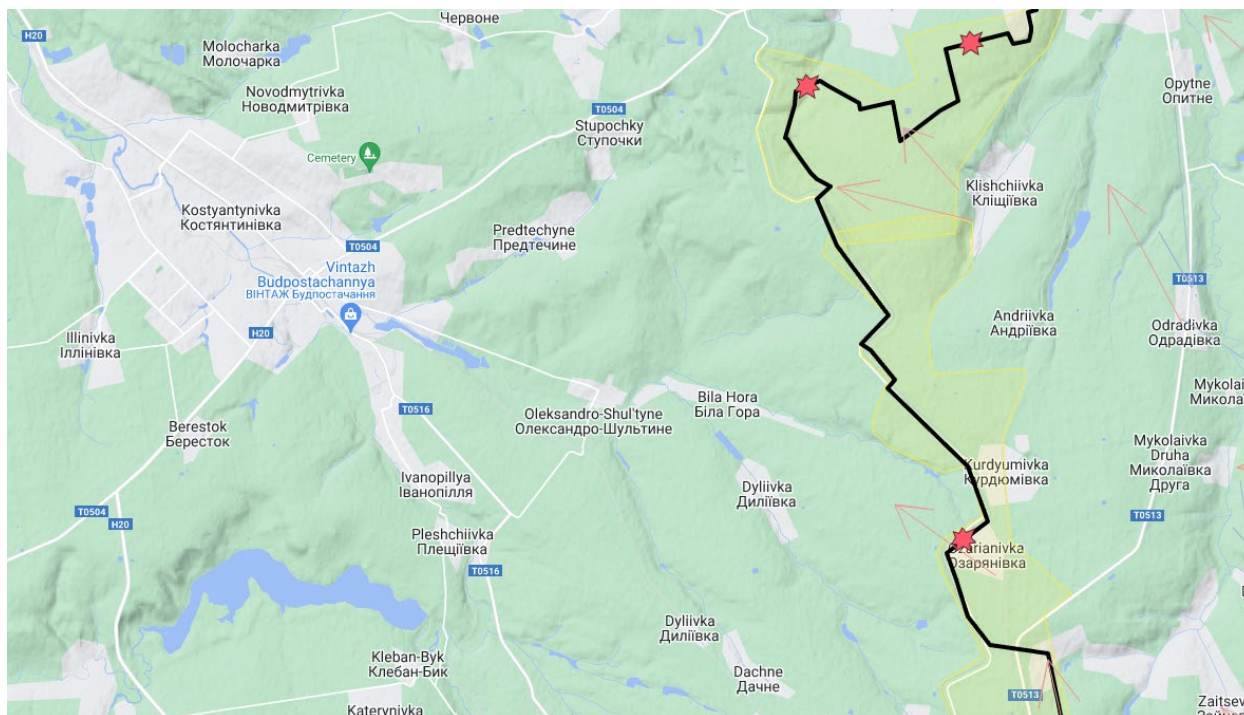
²² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)



There was intense positional fighting and shelling in the southern part of the city, but there weren't attempts at larger offensives by either combatant. PMC Wagner's attempts to advance on [Ivanivske](#) were unsuccessful.^{23 24}



²³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

²⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>



In the Kostyantynivka Operational Direction, PMC Wagner continued sustained attacks in the direction of [Predtechyne](#) from the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal without success.²⁵

26


[North of Klishchiivka](#), Ukrainian drone-directed counterbattery fire  [destroyed a PMC Wagner mortar position](#).²⁷ On the east bank of the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas Canal at [Ozarianivka](#), an accumulation of PMC Wagner mercenaries were attacked by Ukrainian forces  [using a](#)

²⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

²⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1653274685520461825>

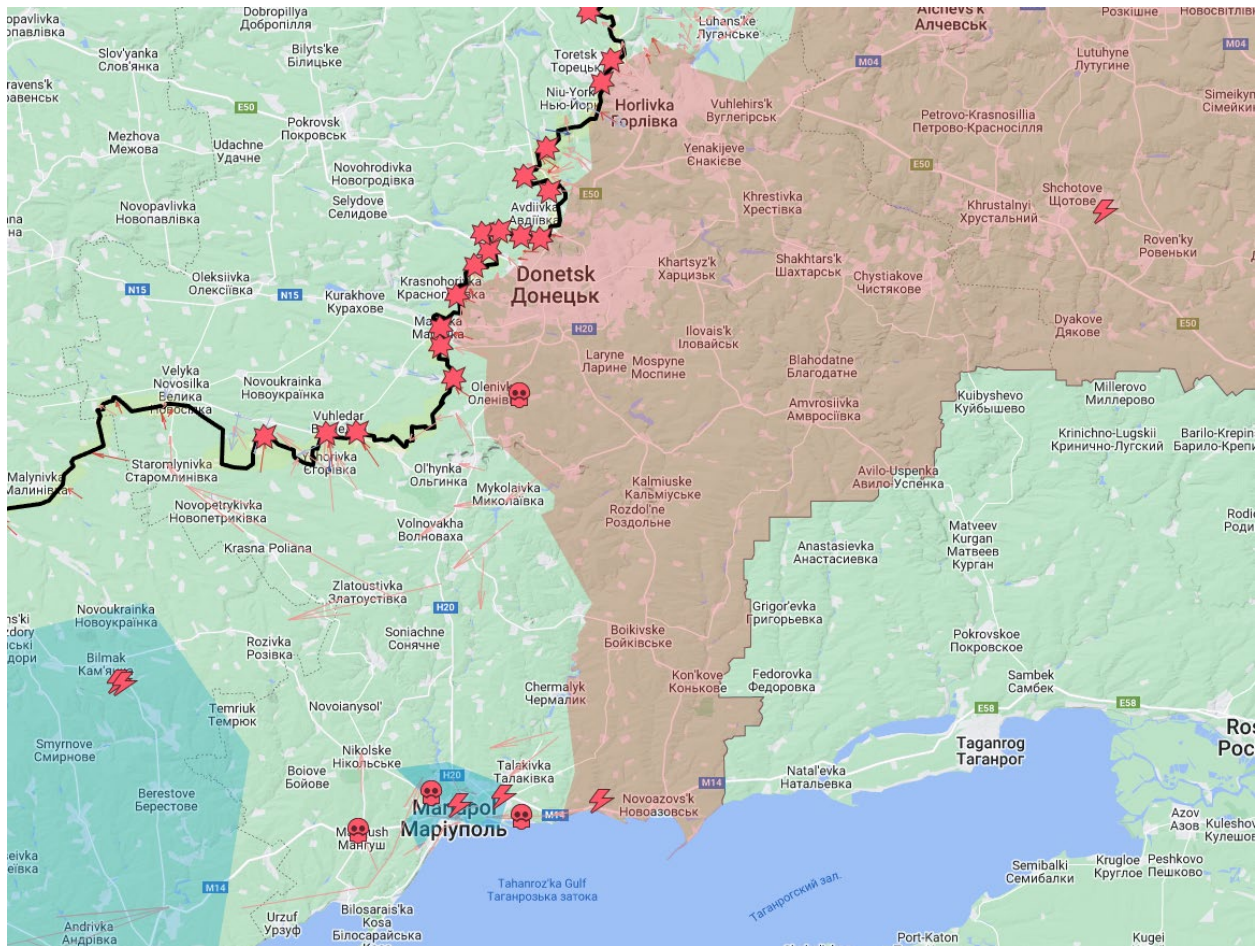
[UR-77 Meteorit demining system](#) as an offensive weapon.²⁸
The system fires a rope of plastic explosives, which can be laid on a single location, creating a massive shockwave.

Kramatorsk was hit by Grad or Urgan rockets,  [damaging a school, 14 highrise apartment buildings](#), a hospital, and the adjacent children's rehabilitation center, injuring one person.²⁹

²⁸ https://twitter.com/parrot_soldier/status/1653512268963872771

²⁹ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/94319>

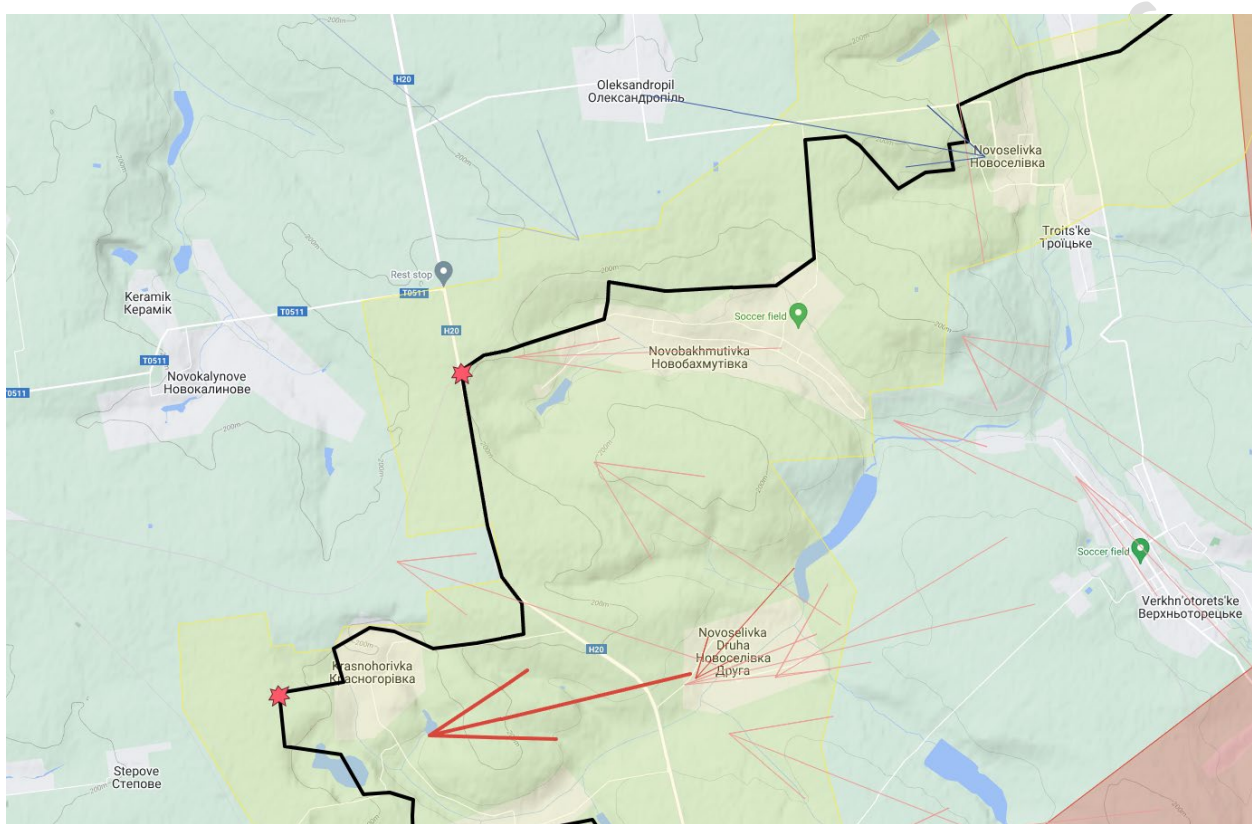
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Russian Objective: Prepare for the Ukrainian offensive, consolidate gains made during the winter offensive, and set conditions for September 2023 elections

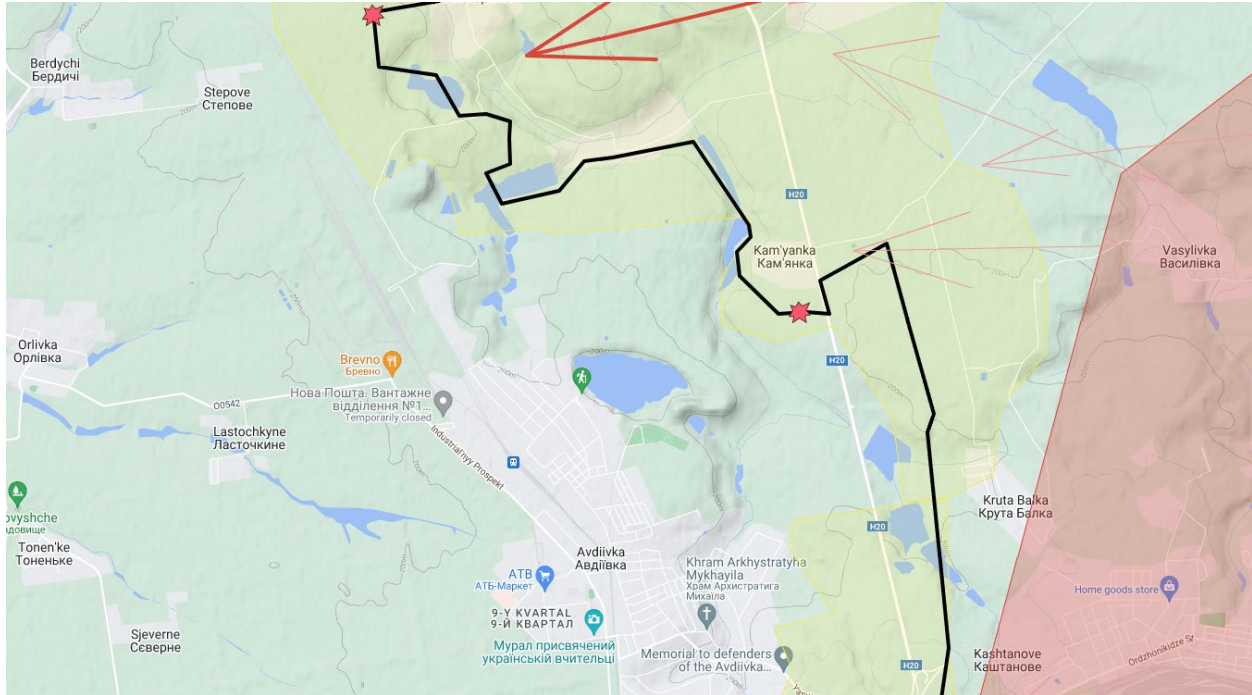
Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and

command and control sites, interdict supplies, and disrupt logistics



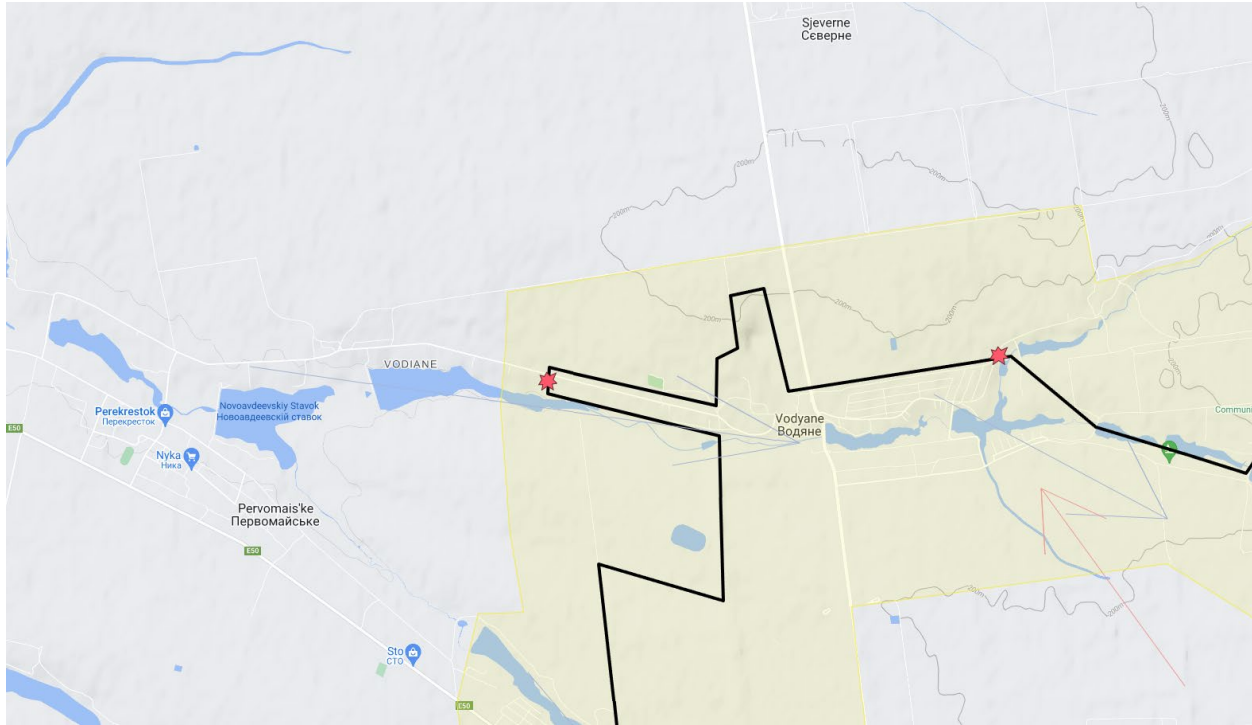
In the Avdiivka Operational Area, elements of the 1st Army Corps attempted to push Ukrainian forces out of the trenches along the H-20 Highway west of [Novobakhmutivka](#) and were unsuccessful.³⁰

³⁰ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/16457>



WarGonzo reported that Russian forces attempted to advance on [Avdiivka](#) from [Vesele](#).³¹

³¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>



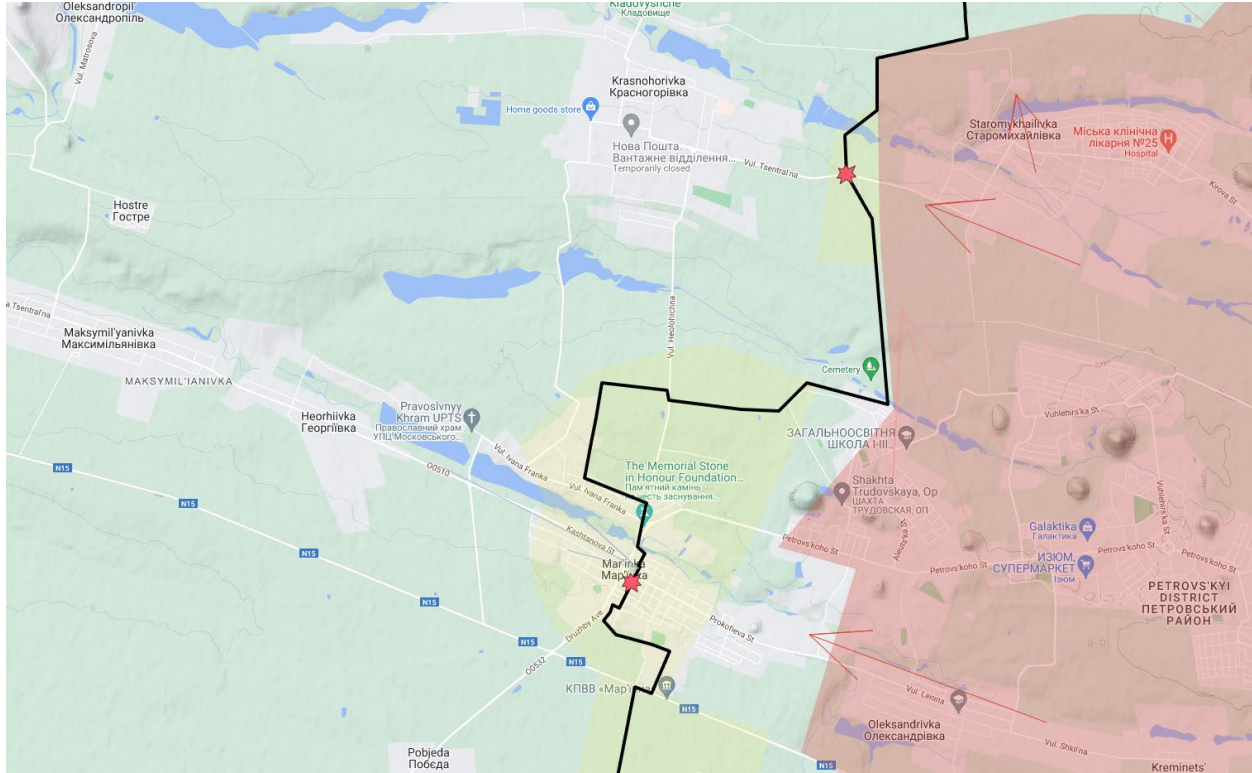
GSAFU reported that a Russian attack in the direction of [Sjeverne](#) failed, while WarGonzo reported that a Ukrainian attack in the direction of Vodyane was successful. In our assessment, fighting is continuing in the no man's land north of [Vodyane](#), with neither combatant able to maintain control of the region.^{32 33} Russian attempts to regain positions in eastern [Pervomaiske](#) failed.^{34 35}

³² [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

³³ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>

³⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

³⁵ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>

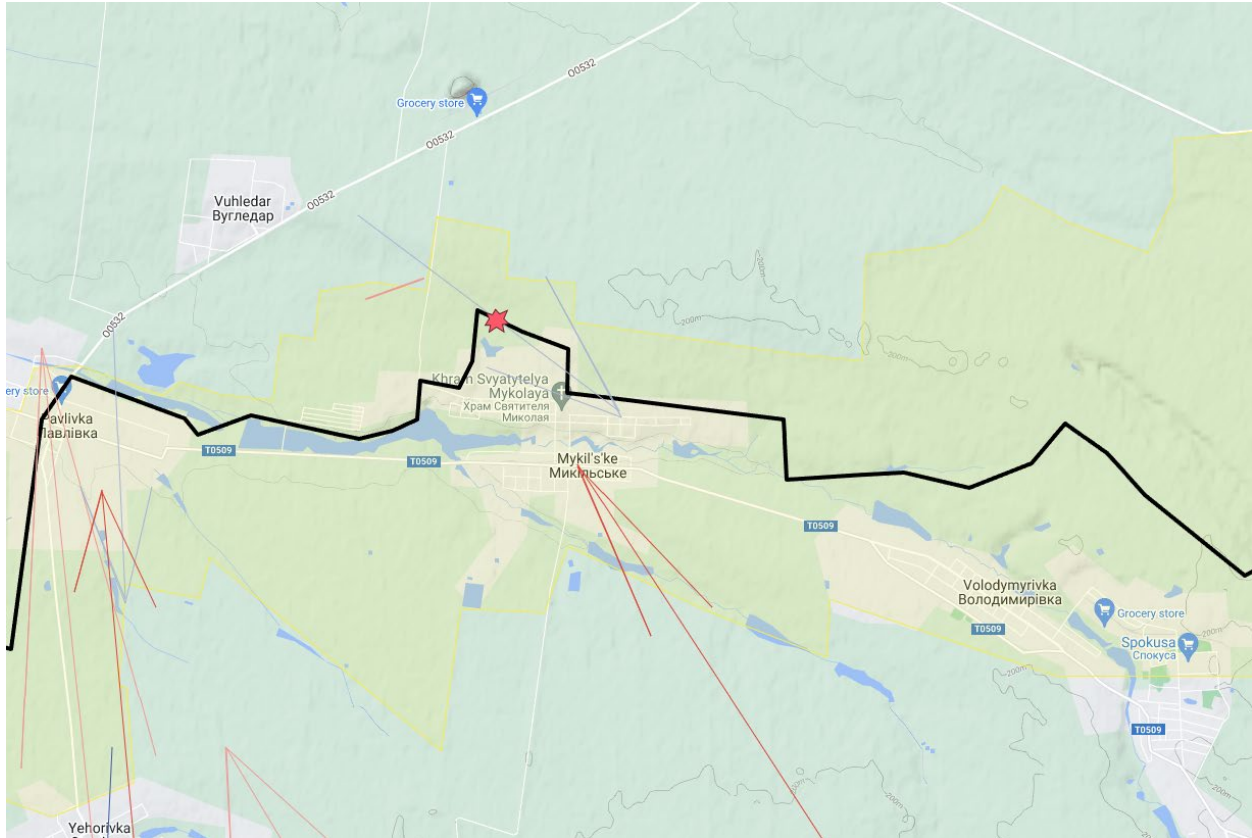



In the [Marinka](#) Operational Area, fighting continued along the remains of Druzhby Avenue, with multiple attacks by the 1st Army Corps failing despite having artillery support.^{36 37 38}


³⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

³⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)

³⁸ <https://t.me/wargonzo/12268>




In the Vuledar Operational Area, south of [Mykilske](#), a Russian T-72 tank moving away from the line of contact  [was destroyed by drone-directed artillery](#).³⁹

Insurgents in Mariupol documented  [five truckloads of S-300 anti-aircraft missiles](#) moving through the city toward Zaporizhia. Each truck was carrying four missiles.⁴⁰

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/NOELreports/status/1653300901950439428>

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/9306>

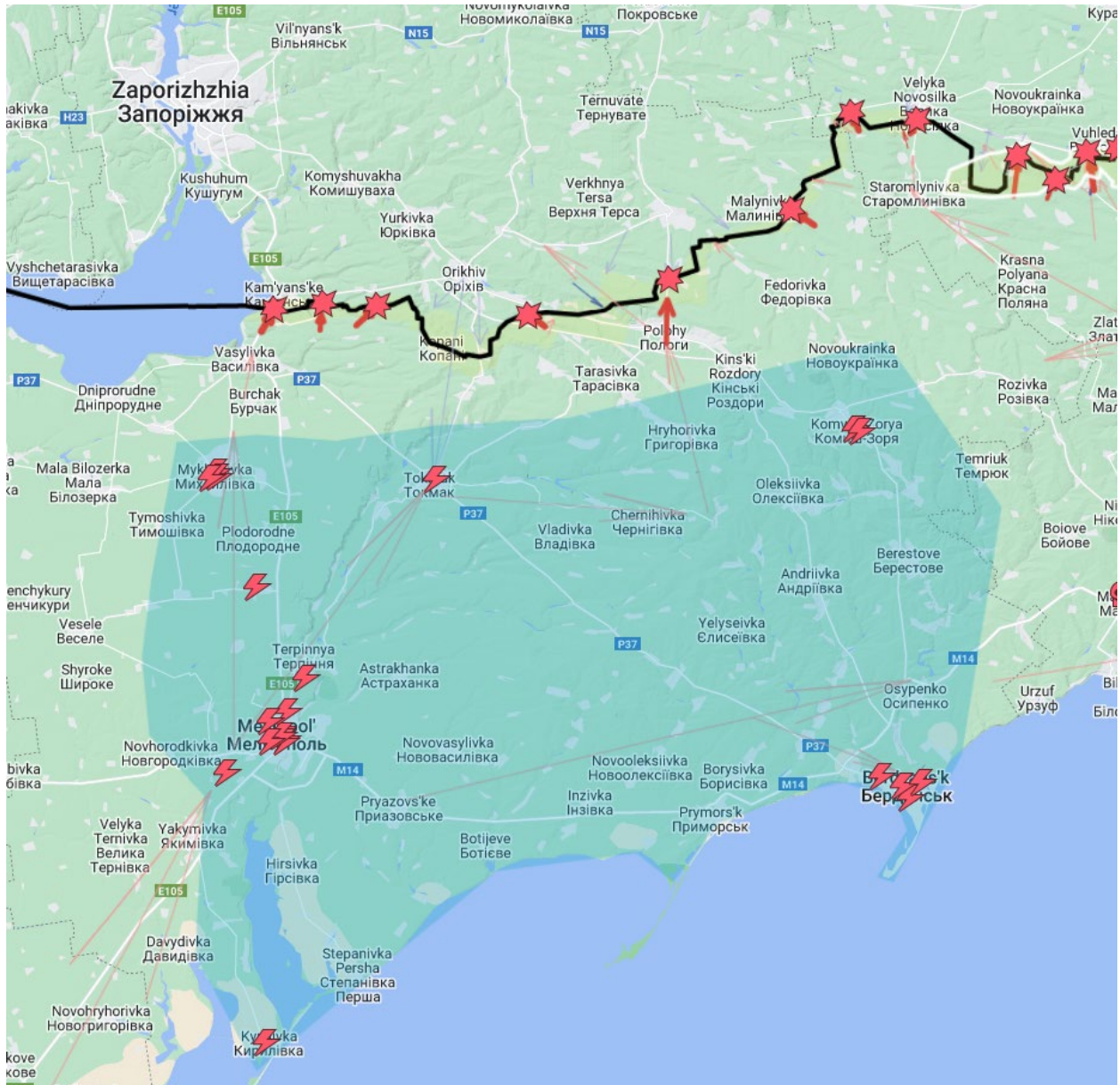
Ninety years and one day ago, the first electric trolley started operation in Mariupol. Today a [single trolley restarted operation](#) on the same route established in 1933.⁴¹

Russian President Vladimir  [Putin attended by Zoom meeting](#) while the self-declared acting leader of the so-called DNR, Denis Pushilin, attended in person.⁴²

⁴¹ <https://t.me/andriyshTime/9293>

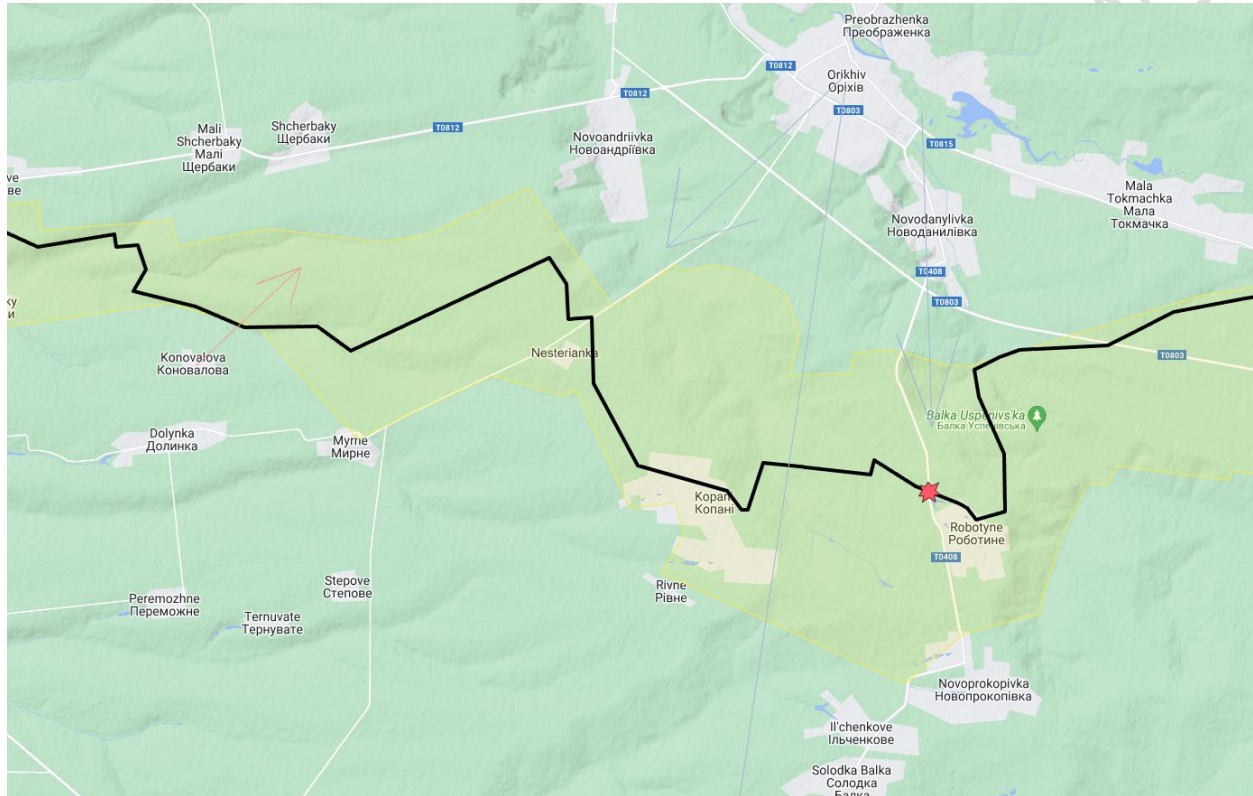
⁴² <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71811>


ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Prepare for a Ukrainian offensive, and terrorize Ukrainian civilians with continued attacks


Ukrainian Objective: Liberate Russian-occupied areas, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians




In the Orikhiv Operational Area, Russian positions in Stepove were  shelled by drone-directed artillery.⁴³

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/klinger66/status/1653170599672307713>

In Zaporizhzhia,  [two areas of civilian infrastructure](#) were destroyed in an overnight attack. There were no casualties reported.⁴⁴

Russian forces  [completed 69 fire missions on the Zaporizhia line of conflict](#) and conducted two missile attacks, three airstrikes, and four UAV strikes.⁴⁵

Russian state news agency Baza reported that Ukrainian drones hit an airfield near Russian-occupied Berdyansk. Five drones were involved, with officials claiming two were shot down and two struck the airfield, damaging an An-124 transport aircraft.^{46 47}

In Russia-occupied Melitopol, an  [IED exploded outside the home](#) of the deputy chief of the Central Internal Affairs Directorate of the Zaporizhia region. The man was wounded in the attack and required hospitalization. At the time of publication, no other information was available.⁴⁸


⁴⁴ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/18547

⁴⁵ https://t.me/zoda_gov_ua/18549

⁴⁶ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/2939

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/94458>

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71814>

In Russia-occupied Tokmak, warnings went out across multiple social media networks about a Russian soldier who appeared to be having a mental health crisis in Kirov Park. A short video showed the uniformed soldier  [yelling incoherently and staggering through the park](#), firing his service weapon at the trees.⁴⁹

SIDEBAR: Mental illness and suicide are sensitive topics, and their discussion can trigger strong feelings. If you are having suicidal thoughts or you're despondent, there is help available.

- United States: 988 or 800-273-8255 - you can text 741741 – veterans can text 838255
- Canada: 833-456-4566 or text 45645 (text from 4 PM to Midnight EDT)
- United Kingdom: 0800-689-5652 or 999
- Ireland: Freephone 116-123 (Ireland and Northern Ireland) or text 50808 (Ireland only)
- Australia: 13-11-14 or 000 or text 0477-13-11-14
- New Zealand: 0508-828-865 or 111

There was no update on the status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

⁴⁹ https://t.me/tokmak_ukraine/3083

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Operational Command South (OKS) reported that Black Sea Fleet has eight vessels on patrol, including one Kilo-class submarine capable of launching up to four Kalibr cruise missiles.⁵⁰

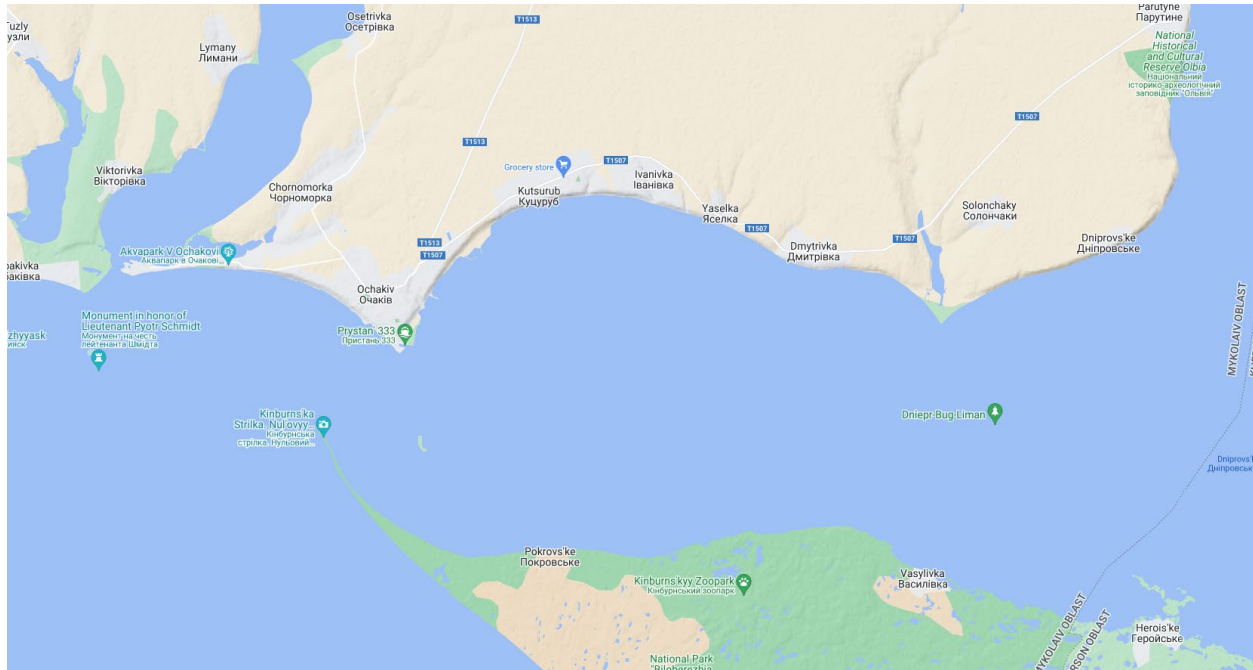
Geolocated pictures and videos [showed an explosion in occupied Crimea](#) at a military base for Russian border guards west of the settlement of [Shkil'ne](#).⁵¹ It is unclear what caused the blast at the former training base.

Satellite photos from Planet showed that  [four storage tanks were completely destroyed](#) by the Ukrainian drone strike at the fuel storage depot at Cossack Bay in Sevastopol, and up to six more were significantly damaged.⁵²

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/94333>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29566>

⁵² <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29571>



In Mykolaiv, an Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drone struck a house in [Kutsurub](#), destroying the structure. Ukrainian air defenses shot down a second UAV.

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure to break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Kherson Oblast OVA Oleksandr Prokudin announced a three-day total curfew in the city of Kherson.⁵³ Entry and exit of the city and being outside will be prohibited. No reason was given, and the curfew only impacts the city, not the hromada or raion.

ASSESSMENT: If Ukrainian forces launch an amphibious assault on the left bank from Kherson, I don't think there were be a group of people more surprised than our team. Large offensive operations have been preceded by a closed-door meeting of the Stavka with a limited group of military commanders and no readout provided to the press. We urge our readers and listeners not to jump to any conclusions.

Russian and Ukrainian forces conducted artillery strikes and counterbattery in Kherson.^{54 55 56 57} Russian forces conducted 106 fire missions on free Ukraine, using 485 artillery rounds, mortars, Grad rockets, drone-delivered IEDs, and indirect tank fire.⁵⁸ The city of Kherson was attacked nine times, targeting residential areas, with one

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/94485>


⁵⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM EEDT](#)

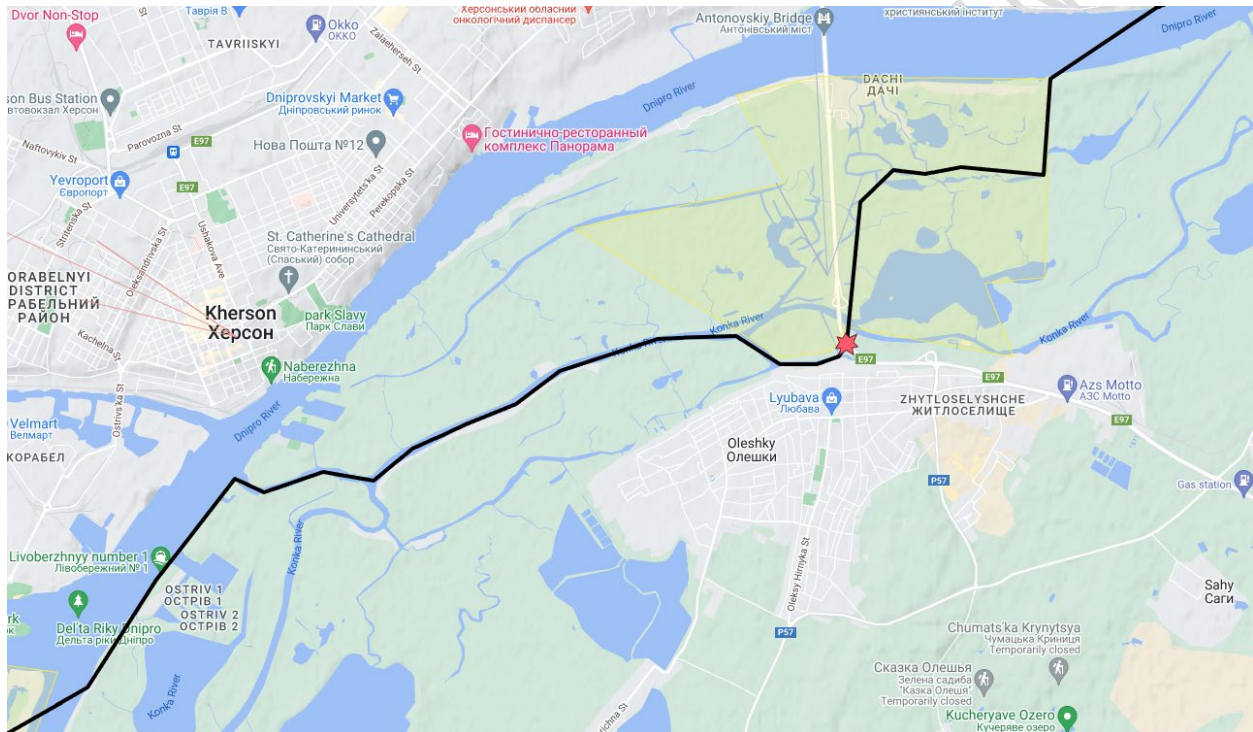
⁵⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM EEDT](#)


⁵⁶ https://t.me/mod_russia/26125 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁵⁷ https://t.me/mod_russia/26126 [Russian Government Controlled Social Media Channel]

⁵⁸ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/38818>

person killed. Russian FAB-500S-E GLONASS-guided  [glide bombs struck the village of Veletenske](#) on the west bank of the Dnipro, killing three and wounding five.^{59 60} In the Beryslav raion, Russian shelling wounded a teenager.⁶¹




A geolocated Russian video shows that  [Ukrainian forces control the marina on the east bank of the Dnipro](#) and came under drone-directed artillery fire during night operations.⁶² Another geolocated video showed Russian

⁵⁹ https://t.me/kherson_non_fake/6991

⁶⁰ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/38778>

⁶¹ <https://t.me/hueviyherson/38801>

⁶² <https://twitter.com/GeoConfirmed/status/1653452836632395783>

forces  [shelling houses on Velyky Potemkin Island](#), indicating that Ukrainian control [is more extensive than previously assessed](#). Based on the two videos, we adjusted the map.⁶³

Russian collaborator and milblogger Pavel Gubarev accused Kherson occupation officials of corruption, calling occupied-Kherson leaders an "ethnic mafia created by dark money deals."

"These are the same people who have been drinking the blood of the Gubarevas [*a name for humanitarian convoys in the Donbas – Ed.*] in the Donbas for eight years. My colleagues and I in Kherson have again experienced fabricated criminal cases, imprisonment of the innocent, torture, and other outrages, but in a more sophisticated form. We are trying to solve the situation quietly without taking any trash out of the house. If we are unsuccessful, we will probably have to publish this story, even if it means a reputational blow to our common cause. It is very hard to sit quietly and calmly when a comrade-in-arms sits strapped to a fence on the street like a dog for weeks. It is

⁶³ <https://twitter.com/foosint/status/1652593124076658691>

painful when a person who has proven his dedication to the cause is subjected to horrific torture."⁶⁴

Editor's Note: If this is how they treat their own, what is happening to Ukrainian dissidents?

In Dnipropetrovsk, an Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drone struck the city of Dnipro, heavily damaging a city administration building.⁶⁵ Air defenses reportedly shot down seven more UAVs.

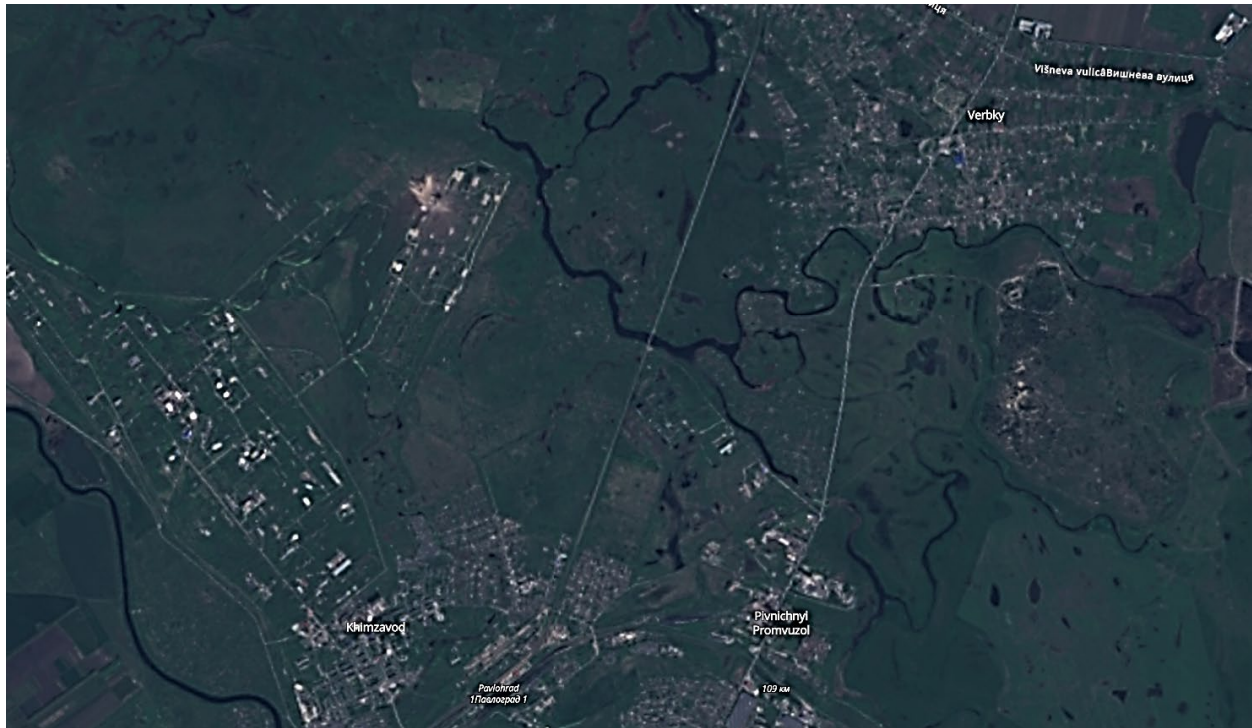
Satellite imagery from  [Sentinelhub Landsat 8-9 L1](#) confirms that a Russian attack in Pavlohrad destroyed up to three storage bunkers holding expired solid rocket fuel.

⁶⁴ <https://t.me/pgubarev/543>

⁶⁵ https://t.me/mykola_lukashuk/4365



Google satellite image of the rocket fuel storage facility north of Pavlohrad.



Sentinelhub Landsat 8-9 L1, true color – pansharpened shows the third storage area has been destroyed, with material ejected northwest, north, and east. The adjacent storage bunkers to the north and south appear compromised, while the southernmost one remains intact. There is no visible large-scale damage to the railroad station or the adjacent depot or evidence of significant secondary explosions from the main blast site.

The Kirovohrad Oblast OVA, Andriy Raykovych, reported up to three Shahed-136 UAVs 📷 [struck a fuel depot in Kropyvnytskyi](#) at 03:00 hrs local time on May 3.⁶⁶ The fires from the attack were clearly visible on NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS).

⁶⁶ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/5771




NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale



Ukrainian Objective: Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

In Sumy, the hromadas of Bilopillia, Yunakivska, Vorozhba, Myropillia, Seredyna-Buda, Hlukhiv, Znob-Novhorodske,

Shalyhyne, Esman, Velyka Pysarivka, and Nova Sloboda were hit by airstrikes, artillery, and mortars.⁶⁷ An airstrike in Seredyna-Buda, followed by an artillery fire mission,  [damaged a school, two apartment buildings](#), and eight houses.⁶⁸ Yunakivka was hit by five artillery shells and three mortars, damaging a farm building. Six mortars struck Velyka Pysarivka damaging a retail shop and a home. In Hlukhiv, 16 artillery shells damaged an outbuilding and a commercial enterprise. Znob-Novhorodske was hit by 16 artillery rounds, damaging the sawmill and a farm building holding calves. Over 130 munitions were fired, striking 19 border villages.

RUSSIAN FRONT


Russian border guards claim they shot down a Ukrainian drone at the village of Repyahovka, Belgorod, which was attempting to target an electrical substation.⁶⁹



At least one Ukrainian kamikaze drone  [hit a fuel depot in Port Taman](#) in the Krasnodar Krai region,  [setting](#)

⁶⁷ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/3/7400403/>

⁶⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/94345>

⁶⁹ https://t.me/shot_shot/50846

[tanks with oil products on fire](#).⁷⁰ ⁷¹Local officials declared a  [level four fire emergency](#), the equivalent to a general alarm fire call in the United States.⁷²

Twenty-railroad cars, many carrying fuel products,  [were derailed in the settlement of Snezhetskaya](#) in the Bryansk region.⁷³ Area residents reported hearing several explosions before  [the accident](#), with local officials reporting three to seven pounds of TNT or its equivalent was used in an act of sabotage.⁷⁴

Another IED was founded at a train tunnel on the Bryansk-Unecha line and was removed by explosive ordnance disposal experts.⁷⁵

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

On May 2 and into the early hours of May 3, Russia launched 26 Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones, and reported 21 were shot down. Our team was able to

⁷⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29581>

⁷¹ https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1653622321628827650

⁷² <https://twitter.com/Tendar/status/1653615910064738304>


⁷³ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29575>

⁷⁴ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71882>

⁷⁵ https://t.me/shot_shot/50825

account for the five impacts in Mykolaiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Kirovohrad.⁷⁶

As expected, the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, extended mobilization and martial law in Ukraine until August 18, 2023.⁷⁷ The measure will move to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's desk for signature.

Ukrainian forces continue to receive Iranian-made ammunition, with pictures showing Ukrainian forces  [loading 122 mm shells for the D-30 howitzer](#).⁷⁸ The most recent batch of ammunition was produced in 2023. It remains unclear if Iran is selling ammunition to Ukraine through back channels, if this is a third-party transfer, or if the munitions have been confiscated from illegal shipments.

Denmark has pledged another \$250M in military aid to Ukraine, including demining equipment, additional ammunition, bridging equipment, and funds for purchasing air defense munitions.⁷⁹

⁷⁶ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/2936

⁷⁷ https://t.me/zinkevich_igor/5761

⁷⁸ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1653485838368481280>

⁷⁹ <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2023/05/2/7160832/>

RUSSIA VS. UKRAINE HEAVY EQUIPMENT LOSSES

Russian and Ukrainian visually confirmed heavy equipment losses sourced from the [Oryx Database](#) from February 24, 2022, to May 2, 2023. 10,135 Russian vs. 3,243 Ukrainian

Equipment	Russian Losses	Ukrainian Losses	Ratio	Change
Main Battle Tanks	1802	192	9.39:1	—
Medium Duty Tanks	123	301	0.41:1	—
Armored fighting Vehicles	836	264	3.17:1	—
Infantry Fighting Vehicles	2311	524	4.41:1	↓
Armored Personnel Carriers	308	251	1.23:1	—
MRAPs	43	53	0.85:1	↓
Infantry Mobility Vehicles	189	289	0.65:1	↓
Command and Communications Vehicles	239	12	19.92:1	↓
Engineering Vehicles	302	50	6.04:1	↑
Towed Artillery	200	121	1.65:1	↑
Self-Propelled Howitzers/Mortars	387	141	2.74:1	↓
MLRS	194	45	4.31:1	↓
SAMs	106	98	1.08:1	↓
Mobile Radars	31	57	0.54:1	↓
EW/ECW	36	1	36.00:1	↑
Winged Aircraft	80	66	1.21:1	—
Helicopters	84	29	2.89:1	↑
Naval Vessels	12	26	0.46:1	—

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MILITARY, AND MIR

Our favorite FSB Colonel, convicted war criminal, Kremlin pariah, and failed mobik Igor Strelkov Girkin, was back into full doomer mode, writing a series of screeds as he appears to no longer be concerned he will face charges under Russia's so-called "don't say war" laws.

"The Kremlin is not going to win this war and does not even want to. [Emphasis, Girkin – Ed.] Neither ideologically nor practically. The Kremlin's amazing people are preparing for a long victorious war, clearly counting on its relatively quick end."⁸⁰

Editor's Note: *Girkin is being scathingly sarcastic.*

"Russian troops, with the exception of the bloody 'meat assaults' in the Donbas, are on the defensive everywhere. They are not preparing for an offensive."

⁸⁰ <https://t.me/strelkovii/4726>

"The abandonment of Kherson and the absence of attempts to liberate the city of Zaporizhzhia, as well as the available information about the preparations for the evacuation of civilian institutions in the rear of our troops in the Kherson and Zaporizhia regions, indicate that the Kremlin is ready to surrender at any moment to their respected Kyiv partners."

ASSESSMENT: We give significant weight to Girkin's claim that Russian occupiers are preparing to evacuate Gauleiters and collaborators to Crimea, and it provides a data point that indicates how the Kremlin is viewing their readiness for a Ukrainian offensive.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said that all checkpoints to enter the border areas of occupied Zaporizhia, Luhansk, and Donetsk would be "further expanded" by September, indicating that the Russian Federation will not keep its promise to normalize the border after the October 2022 illegal annexation of the occupied territories.⁸¹ The Kremlin had previously promised that part of the annexation would be the elimination of border checkpoints. Interestingly, no expansion was announced at checkpoints between occupied Kherson and

⁸¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71816>

Crimea, despite a previous request by Russian collaborator and occupied Kherson administrator Vladimir Saldo.

The United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Defense Intelligence Directorate agreed with our assessment that Russian forces suffer from ammunition shortages, causing struggles between RMOD and Wagner Group. "Russia continues to give the highest priority to mobilizing its defense industry, but it is still failing to meet wartime demands. While Russia's political leaders persist in demanding success on the battlefield, Russia's logistics professionals are stuck in the middle."⁸²

Russian propagandist and PMC Wagner-aligned war correspondent Alexander Simonov complained about the ongoing ammunition shortages.

"One night, I was sitting at the command post of one of the Wagner assault squads. I watched on the big screen how our UAVs find the enemy [Ukrainians] in Bakhmut and then...[are] covered with artillery. After a certain number of successful hits...the duty officer...says to the [drone operator], 'Everyone, fly away from there. I have exhausted

⁸² <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1653273566681481218>

the night limit.' Of course, there is always a limit. But the current one was very small."⁸³

An unnamed source reported that three Russian cruise missiles launched as part of the April 30 missile strikes on Ukraine failed when they were released from Tu-95MS strategic bombers and crashed in a remote area. Russian officials are investigating what caused the failures. We cannot validate the report, but 20% to 60% failure rates have been documented for precision Russian munitions as early as April 2022.⁸⁴

A report in Defense Express provided a potential explanation on why some Russian FAB-500S-E GLONASS-guided glide bombs (UMPK) are landing in fields and have fallen on at least two Russian cities – they're too heavy.⁸⁵ When the UMPK is added to a FAB-M62 bomb, the weight exceeds the limits of the underwing pylon on the Su-34 and Su-35 multirole fighter aircraft capable of launching the munitions. The UMPK isn't especially aerodynamic, adding stress to the airframe during high-speed flight. Because the hard point weight limits are exceeded, some bombs reportedly have detached from the pylons and self-armed

⁸³ <https://t.me/brussinf/5928>

⁸⁴ [Metro UK](#)

⁸⁵ [Defense Express](#)

on at least one occasion. The UMPK program, which was started at the beginning of the century, was abandoned by the Russian Ministry of Defense specifically due to the weight issue. Russia is currently using approximately 20 glide bombs a day, indicating at least 600 can be produced a month.

ASSESSMENT: This does provide a plausible explanation for why UMPK-equipped FAB-500 bombs are striking empty fields and other unpopulated areas, indicating there is an extremely high failure rate.

Russian state media agencies were given new guidelines, according to the dissident Russian news site, Meduza.⁸⁶ The new standards specify that state media should **not** reassure the Russian population by continuing to promote the message the Ukraine Armed Forces are unprepared to launch an offensive. They are also instructed to focus on the extensive supply of weapons and materials by NATO countries in every possible way. If Ukraine finds battlefield success, Russian state media has been told to minimize Ukrainian success and say the progress was due to "the huge efforts of the collective West."

⁸⁶ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/29574>

Editor's Note: Before the withdrawal of Kherson, the Kremlin released similar updated guidelines to prepare the Russian population for a withdrawal from the west bank and possibly the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

All is going to plan.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

There weren't any significant events reported.

GEOPOLITICS

The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Poland submitted a note of protest to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the seizure of the building of the Russian school in Warsaw. The Soviets seized the Russian school building during the start of their 1945 occupation, which as part of switching to the Allied side in World War II, completed the 1939 Soviet-Nazi planned occupation of

Poland. That plan collapsed in June 1941 when Nazi Germany broke the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.⁸⁷

ECONOMIC

Tinder, the maker of the famous dating app of the same name, announced it would be exiting the Russian market by June 30, 2023.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71769>

⁸⁸ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/71782>