

SITREP 2/18/24: Avdeevka Liberated



SIMPLICIUS THE THINKER

19 FEB 2024



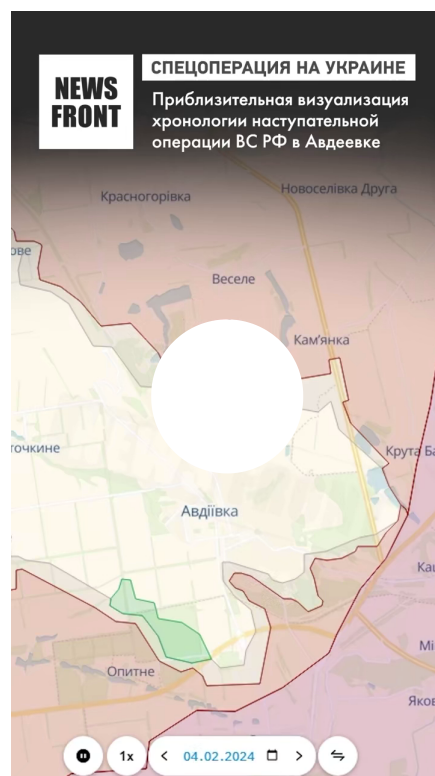
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Well, it finally happened: Avdeevka has fallen, or should I say *Avdeyevka*, as it's being styled by many outlets like Sputnik now that it has returned home.



Ukrainian forces retreated—or attempted to—from every part of Avdeevka, even in the Coke Plant, leaving the new front looking like this:



The yellow lines represent the rough direction of current battles as Russian forces reportedly attempt to storm Latochkyne—with some early reports already claiming it has been taken, or at the least that AFU has withdrawn from it, creating a gray zone—with the logical extension that forces from the south near Severne will attempt to close the new gap formed north of the old Zenit/Air Defense Base area.

Interestingly, rumor has it that Zelensky was desperate to hold Avdeevka through his time at the Munich conference, so as not to be humiliated. However, the withdrawal order was only given because the 3rd Brigade (Azov) had already totally countermanded orders and began withdrawing on their own, with other units possibly following. To stave off total collapse of the command, Syrsky was forced to give an official order of withdrawal, but Zelensky is reportedly furious, as per Resident-UA channel:

Our source in the OP said that the Office of the President instructed the General Staff and the Security Council to conduct an investigation in the 3-brigade, which refused to comply with the order and enter Avdeevka in position. On Bankova, they are very angry at Syrsky, who promised to keep the city while Zelensky on a EU tour, but I had to urgently leave the most fortified positions that had been created in Avdeevka for ten years.

In quickly taking over such a large area, Russian MOD's official numbers claim a likely record day with around 2300 AFU either killed, wounded, or captured:

Data on APU losses from the summary of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation dated 02/18/2024



Direction	BBM1	Tanks	Artillery	Auto	3PK	Personal structure
Kupyansk direction	3	1	6	3		40
Krasnolimanskoe direction	3	1		4		100
Avdiivka, Donetsk People's Republic						1500
Donetsk direction	7	2	3	6	1	400
South Donetsk direction	2	2	6	3		190
Kherson direction	1		2	3		70
Total	16	6	17	19	1	2300

Direction	AHS Krab	FH-70	M777	Carnation	MT-12	Msta-B	D-30	D-20	ZRK Strela 10
Kupyansk direction	1			2			1	2	
Krasnolimansk direction									
Donetsk direction						1	1	1	1
South Donetsk direction	1	2			1	2			
Kherson direction			1	1					
Total	2	2	1	3	1	3	2	3	1

Инфографика подготовлена LSolongo

And while the pro-UA crowd scoffed, interestingly Ukrainian MP Peter Derbal gave the number as 850 soldiers lost in the Avdeevka retreat:



Peter Derbal

1 hour · 🌐

Still a disaster ... I repent for my excessive optimism in the previous post ... Unfortunately, judging by the stories of those who managed to get out from the encirclement of our soldiers, in Avdiivka after all disaster - it was total chaos, not organized retreat . It's too late and already in hopeless conditions Sirsky finally I decided to leave Avdiivka. When exiting the cordon was killed or captured approximately 850 of our soldiers, including about 350 wounded who were not evacuated. General m " yasnik 😞 showed what he is worth how the manager and what are the costs of planning it operations without the participation of generals Muzhenko or Zaluzhny...

Here is only the first consequence of the defeat leadership of the Armed Forces of Ukraine mirshavim nedomirkom ... 😡

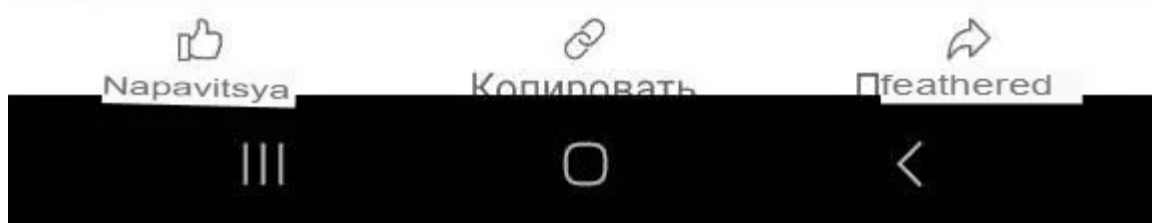
PS. How can you be such idiots to first announce your exit and only then start conducting it ??? So that the enemies are already were you ready to shoot you like in a shooting gallery ?! BL пригад would you remember better how masterpiece the general withdrew his troops from Debaltseve Muzhenko, - first brought out and only through the day it was announced ! Orcs for two more days carefully entered the abandoned positions, because they did not

they believed that our people managed to get out.
And captured only 20 people from the
most remote Vop with which it was lost communication.

only 20 people from

134

12 comments



There were some unconfirmed Russian reports of over 500 AFU prisoners being taken, and while I haven't seen quite that high of a number, I can confidently say that yesterday was possibly the most videos of captured AFU that I've seen. I myself have posted probably over a dozen videos, and there are still yet others I didn't even bother posting. Some samples: [One](#), [Two](#), [Three](#), [Four](#), [Five](#), [Six](#), [Seven](#), [Eight](#), [Nine](#), [Ten](#), and many others.

The most striking however was this young company officer, a lieutenant, who gave the juiciest details about the AFU's battle order and plans for the Avdeevka zone:



Some of the revelations confirmed some long-standing reports, like that the zone's battalion commanders sit 40km away in Pokrovsk and refuse to come to the front.

Naturally, the usual suspects were utterly despondent—and in fact, a new tone of total cynicism and distrust in the tired and predictable propaganda of Ukrainian authorities was noted among some of the biggest luminaries:



Julian Röpcke 🇺🇦 🟦 @Julia... · 32 m

[#NewsMap](#)

The Ukrainian army surrendered the [#Avdiivka](#) Coal Plant to Russian invasion forces.

As they planned to "withdraw units from the city and move to defense on more favorable lines", you see my mildly shocked as this plant is probably the most fortified position in the area.



💬 12 ↻ 25 ❤️ 81 📊 11,7K 🔗



Julian Röpcke 🇺🇦 🟦 @JulianRoepc... · 1h

Without proper ammunition along the entire front and while withdrawing from Avdiivka, the Ukrainian army killed 1210 Russian soldiers yesterday and wounded another 3630, destroying five entire BTG on a single day ... according to the Ukrainian army.

Putin issued an official decree congratulating Colonel General Mordvichev who, as commander of the 'Center' group of forces, was the sector commander in charge of the Avdeevka capture. In the message he also outlined precisely which Russian units were involved in the heroic feat:

Supreme Commander-in-Chief

of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation

to General Colonel MORDVICHEV A.N.

Today, the troop group 'Center,' while advancing, has completely captured the city of Avdeevka of the Donetsk People's Republic.

The units involved include: the 30th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 2nd army; the 35th separate motorized rifle brigade, the 55th separate mountain motorized rifle brigade, the 74th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 41st army; the 1st separate motorized rifle brigade, the 9th separate motorized rifle brigade, the 114th separate motorized rifle brigade, the 1454th motorized rifle regiment, the 10th tank regiment of the 1st army corps; the 6th tank regiment, the 80th tank regiment, the 239th tank regiment of the 90th tank division.

I express my gratitude for the excellent combat actions to all the troops under your command that participated in the battles for Avdeevka.

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in battle while carrying out the tasks of the special military operation!

Supreme Commander-in-Chief

of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation V. Putin



In particular brought to light were units of the 41st Combined Arms Army of the Central Military District. Both the mentioned 55th Separate Mountain and 74th

Motorized Rifle Brigade belong to the group, and are said to be comprised of a lot of Tuvans and Buryats, which led to figures like Roepcke claiming Putin is “exploiting ethnic minorities”.



Julian Röpcke 🇺🇦 ✓

@JulianRoepcke

Follow

...

Soldaten der Republik Tuwa (4000 km östl. von Moskau) waren die ersten, die nach erbitterten Kämpfen ihre Fahne im Zentrum von [#Awdijiwka](#) hissten.

Aber nein! Putin missbraucht ja nicht die armen ethnischen Minderheiten Russlands, um sein westliches Nachbarland zu attackieren ...

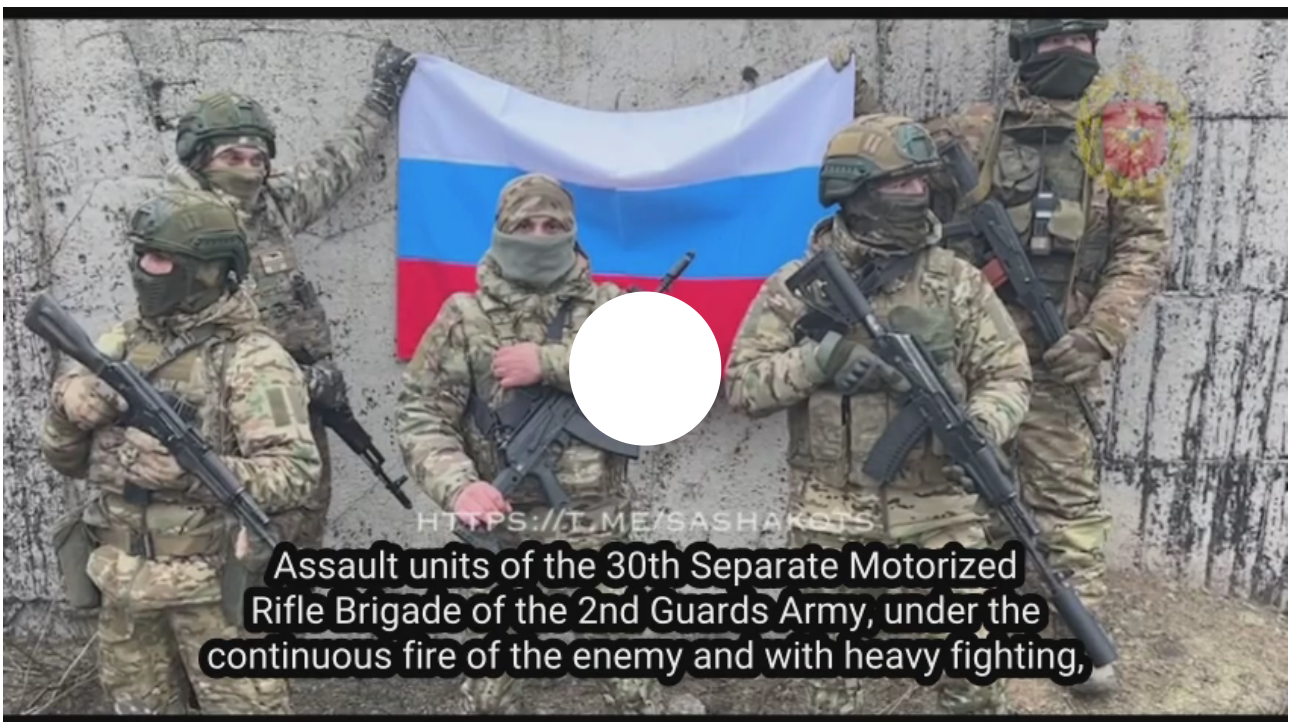
Translated from German by Google

Soldiers of the Republic of Tuva (4000 km east of Moscow) were the first to raise their flag in the center of [#Awdijiwka](#) after fierce fighting.

But no! Putin is not abusing Russia's poor ethnic minorities to attack his western neighbor...



And here the 30th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade of the **2nd Guards Army** from Samara, Russia give their side of the story of how the final capture went down:



The general gist of the Avdeevka battle appeared to happen along these lines: in the earliest stages, DPR units like the 114th were used as the spearhead and damage-soakers, reinforced heavily with Storm-Z penals. As the breakthroughs increasingly came, more Russian units were inserted from the 41st CAA. This culminated in the

final couple weeks, as Ukrainian lines began to break, Russia inserted more elite Spetsnaz and scout units to push through swiftly and surround flustered and haggard Ukrainian defenders.

By the way, interestingly, the [74th](#) seen above in particular had already liberated southern Ukraine once in WWII, as per wiki:

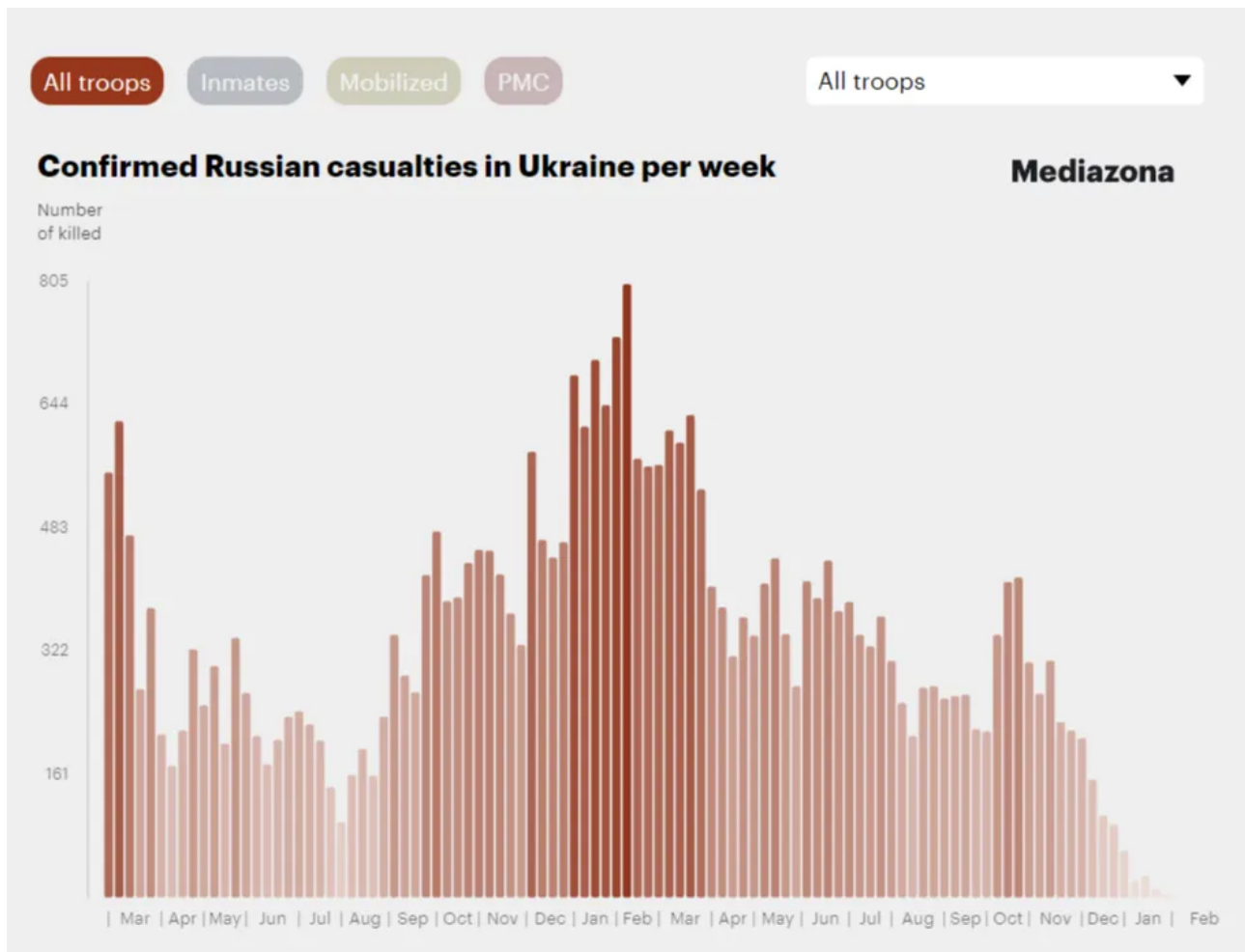
Early years and WWII



The [74th Motor Rifle Brigade](#) was created from the disbanded 94th Guards Zvenigorod-Berlin [Order of Suvorov](#) Motor Rifle Division, formerly of the [Group of Soviet Forces in Germany](#). The 94th Guards Rifle Division was formed on 23 April 1943 in the eastern Ukraine with the consolidation of the [14th Guards](#) and [96th Rifle Brigades](#). It took part in the liberation of southern Ukraine through the remainder of 1943 and into 1944 as part of the 5th Shock Army. It remained with the Army through the remainder of the war and ended in the streets of Berlin. Post-war, it remained with the 5th Shock Army for a period, then transferred to the [3rd Army](#). In 1957, it was one of the few Rifle Divisions to be reorganized into a Motor Rifle Division and still retain its original number. In the mid-1980s, it was transferred to the [2nd Guards Tank Army](#), where it remained until withdrawn from East Germany in 1991. After arriving in [Yurga](#) (near Tomsk) in the [Siberian Military District](#), it was reorganized into the 74th Guards Motor Rifle Brigade, where it remains today. Other units also became part of the 74th Guards Motor Rifle Brigade including a guards engineering battalion and the 386th Tank Regiment.

It's tradition for them.

Ukraine's final consolatory cope is that Russia suffered upwards of 50-100k losses in taking Avdeevka, or so they claim. Unfortunately, this is not backed in even the slightest by their own most meticulous casualty analysts like MediaZona, which still has Russian losses dipping sharply in the last couple months:



Granted, January/February figures will likely be revised upwards retroactively, but probably not dramatically.

The problem is, UA sources pulled wool over their followers' eyes by continuously replaying old losses or showing highly edited videos which didn't actually represent many casualties. One recent demonstrative example: one of UA's top accounts, Dmitry from 'WarTranslated', posted a video earlier in the week claiming to show a Russian soldier walking around a corpse-strewn battlefield in Avdeevka. But his own geolocation of it was far east of Stepove, near Krasnogorovka, where battles had not raged in many months. In fact the strongest battles of that area were in early 2023, which is likely when the footage is from—as that's when Russia first captured the adjacent area, leading to the conditions which facilitated the later Avdeevka assault.

The flagrant lies and exaggerations, as usual, work against Ukraine.

Conversely, the losses as recorded by direct Ukrainian troops from Avdeevka are staggering, by all accounts. Some samples:

The legendary fortified unit, the Zenit military base. In my previous post, I wrote about the conditions in which we had to serve. And so, it all came to a critical point. Preservation of personnel, removal of weapons and equipment, competent mining and burning of the remnants of what we called positions. It would have been nice, but no.

As in politics, no one likes unpopular decisions. Withdrawal of personnel is not the case, heroic defense is. You can get a promotion for that.

There were two attempts to withdraw. On the first night, February 14, the top ten left. They had to engage in a small arms battle. The artillery was already brought in. Only three wounded made it back. And if two of them made it back in the dark. The last one was evacuated in the morning. I and three other volunteers carried him. And daytime is not the right time for movements, and even such heavy ones. And as a natural result. From one wounded, there were 4 more of us. And I was lucky that I did not lose my mobility, but only got the Joker's smile.

Okay. New day, new darkness. The master plan was either in place or gone. New groups were being formed. I didn't go into it. They said a box would come for the wounded. I relaxed.

The groups were leaving, one after the other. There was zero visibility on the street. It was just stupid survival. A kilometer across the field. And a bunch of blind seals controlled by a drone. Enemy artillery. The road to Avdiivka is dotted with our corpses.

I did not stay to wait for the evac. I led the group and went into the unknown. They covered me. I fucked up the group. But in the end, I got to the point.

And as the first groups died facing the enemy. The next ones were led a little bit around. This allowed those who were lucky to get out.

Evac did not come. The last group left the bunker. And this dialog on the radio wounded us to our very core:

"Wounded. Is there no evac coming?"

Commander. No, there will not be, leave 300 and burn everything.

He didn't know he was talking to a wounded man. There were at least six people left.

And it was also difficult to read their messages, in the chat in the signal. Their despair, their doom. It will always stay with us. Only the bravest die.

Continued below

uic [S] 7 points an hour ago

ed the original to fit 300 characters.
ons in brackets.

is KAB. There is a feeling that this i
number of aerial bombs on such a pi
rtire time of the existence of mankind
ombs completely destroy any positio
s and structures simply turn into a p
f just one KAB. And they drop 60-80
e day (!!)

agine the conditions under which our
ting here today.

or Biliak of the 110th Brigade, which has been defending
for the past two years, described his evacuation on Thurs
e garrison known as Zenit, in a southern pocket of the cit

Biliak, who uses the call sign Hentai, said his unit was lef
: for an orderly exit — neither to evacuate weapons and
pment, nor to burn papers and lay mines in the way of
cking Russian troops.

men made a failed attempt to leave on Wednesday night,
. They had to fight their way forward in a gun battle, but
e under artillery fire.

ly three wounded made it back,” Hentai wrote on Instagram.
helped rescue one of the wounded men the next morning,
, a dangerous movement in daylight that cost the unit fou
e wounded, including himself.

troops made another attempt Thursday night, and the se
nded were told to wait for an armored vehicle to take the

: were leaving, one after the other,” Hentai wrote. S
he decided not to wait for the evacuation vehicle a
it.

was zero visibility outside. It was just plain survival
r across the field,” he wrote. “A bunch of blind cats
: enemy artillery. The road to Avdiivka is littered wit
”

evacuation vehicle never came for the wounded, he sa
ap left the bunker, and he overheard a wounded sol
ver the radio about the evacuation vehicle. The
ider replied that no vehicle was coming and that th
save the wounded behind.

’t know he was talking to a wounded man,” Henta
alogue on the radio wounded us to our very core.”

*A lot has happened during all this time, namely, from the
end of March 2022 to the present. And this is for a
moment, being on the front line for 22 months. Rotation,
never heard of. Well, we have reconciled, okay, we lost at
cards, we serve. But there must be a limit to everything.
Knock knock!
Under certain conditions, we would still be able to
somehow wage these infinity wars. But no, external and
internal factors crossed the already stretched boundaries.
Therefore, according to feelings, we are living out our last
days, here at the positions.
It's an enemy outside, it's a war, that's understandable.
Waged war with the enemy on the front, without any
problems at all. Okay, now the left flank, well, it will work
out somehow. Oh no, now the right flank. Well, at least we
have a rear! They began to attack from behind as well. Hey,
isn't that a bell?
An attack from all sides is like cutting off oxygen to a
drowning person. Logistics minus. The resource did not
reach, the soldier entered the deficit. It's not clear what
fueled him to this point. Because the schedule is such that
if I went on vacation once for 10 days, then it was lucky. So
I'm "lucky" to have gone on such a vacation, so even then I
caught the debris with my neck. A month at home, high.
There was also the practice of going to civilization for a
few days. Those who agreed. I negotiated, drove several
times. He who was silent was nowhere. But this is not a*

*remains. There will definitely be no new ones. They will
be useless victims. To the last fighter. Someone
will get promotion. Move in war everywhere at night. But
a new stage of the arms race has arrived. Night drones are very they're
good at pointing everything they can at us. Arta, equipment,
night kamikazes. If you go out and see it, they'll see it right away
they always give the go-ahead to ready machine gunners,
Rpgshnikam and yobanomsniper, which is already a bunch
I took out people. And leaving is even more difficult. Everything is
based on our driver's reinforced concrete eggs. And the snags
that we we buy and repair it ourselves. What else. As soon
as we started bear the first losses, so immediately began our
full-time chaos. From the de jure service mode, we finally
they switched to de facto. At the moment, in fact, in we don't
have a company, we have a company stronghold. No
company commander, and there is a "senior". In general, I hate
it the concept, because it was self-made to denigrate it. Senior
at the lower levels, when something is needed, Vitya, and
how you don't like it, go fuck yourself. Then there is no karoch
company, deputy in proyobi. But the deputy with moral-
psychological appeared recently. Just there is someone
reports on refusal to accept. Platoon commanders, there
are no chief sergeants or squad leaders, older ones. And?
then, most of the last week the war is already over!*

*There will definitely be no new ones. There will be wasted
sacrifices. To the last fighter. Someone will get a
promotion. Movement in the war everywhere at night. But a
new stage of the arms race has come. Night drones are
very good at directing everything possible at us. Art,
technology, night kamikaze. If you come out, they will see
you, then they will immediately give the go-ahead to the
always ready machine gunners, RPG gunners and the
fucking sniper who has already taken out a bunch of
people. And leaving is even more difficult. Everything rests
on the reinforced concrete balls of our driver. And snags
that we buy and repair ourselves. What else. As soon as we
began to suffer the first losses, we immediately began full-
time chaos. From the regime of de jure service, we finally
switched to de facto. At the moment, in fact, we do not
have a company, there is a company base. There is no
company commander, but there is a "senior". In general, I
hate this concept, because I had to insult it myself. Senior
at lower levels, when something is needed, Vitya, and if you
don't like something, go to hell. There is no quarterback, the
deputy is in a hole. However, a moral and psychological
deputy appeared recently. There is just someone to report
on the refusal to accept. There are no platoon
commanders, sergeants-in-chief, department commanders.
There are older ones. And then, most of the last week the*

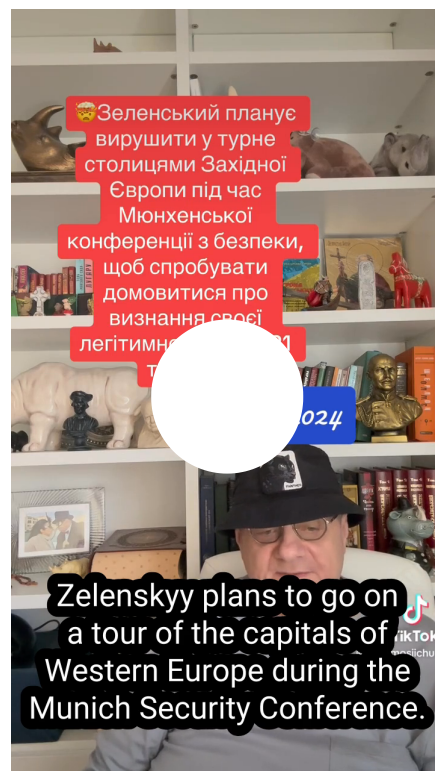
And many of the captured POWs speak of high losses in their units as a universal
fact.



But while the events on the ground had been a foregone conclusion, some of the
more intriguing developments swirled behind the scenes, as the world's power elite
scrambled to shore up Ukraine's corroding reputation at the Munich conference this
weekend. There Zelensky was given a customary standing ovation by the cretinous
nomenklatura of dying Europe:



Days ago, Mosiychuk had predicted that Zelensky would seek a desperate tour of European capitals for optics' sake:



And optics is one way of putting it. While Zelensky hobnobbed with world leaders, his own shadow cabinet rubbed elbows with figures like Soros:



Alex Soros  @AlexanderSoros · 14h

Great to meet Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister, [@DmytroKuleba](#) in Munich. We must not abandon Ukraine. [#MSC2024](#)



Munich Security Conference and Dmytro Kuleba

 1.7K

 383

 372

 796K



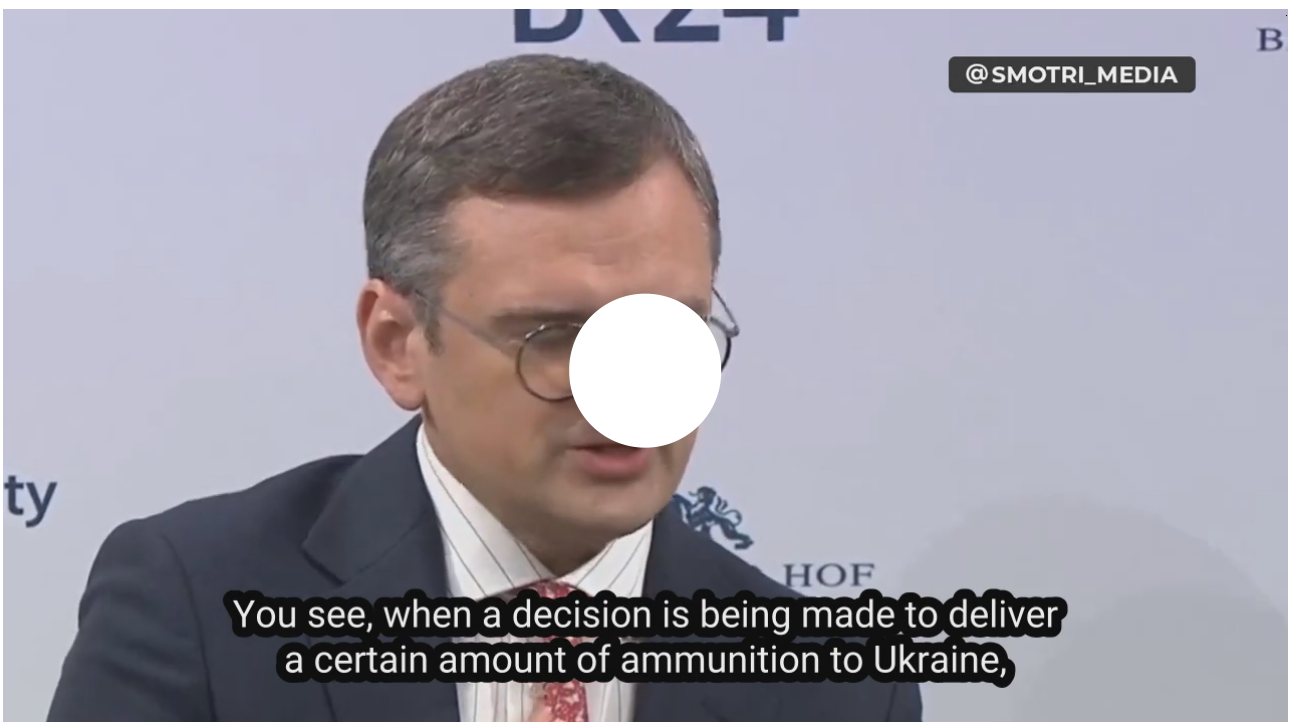
Who was even an honored guest at Yermak's table:



Yermak presses the point about needed ammunition, which was the theme du jour of Kuleba, Zelensky, and co.'s petitions during the conference.

But most insightful was what Kuleba and Zelensky said about artillery in particular.

First Kuleba complains of Ukraine's artillery compatibility problems: even though NATO uses 155mm as standard, the actual rounds of various NATO 155mm systems are not totally interoperable between the various guns:



This is because there are other considerations like the powder charges meant for each cannon's specific pressure/PSI thresholds, etc. It's akin to tank rounds; for instance, though they're both 120mm, the British Challenger has a rifled barrel and cannot use the same ammo as the unrifled 120mm Abrams, Leopard, and Leclerc barrels, etc.

But Zelensky struck the biggest bombshell on this count. Remember the months and years of propaganda revolving around the one key linchpin in the narrative of Ukraine's so-called 'dominance'—that of NATO's artillery advantage in accuracy and *range* over that of Russia. Well, the truth has once again slowly crept to the light:



Some may recall I've solely been belaboring this point, to combat this most far-reaching of deceptions. I've outlined how *some* NATO systems like the Caesar can achieve higher ranges than *most*—but not all—Russian systems; but it also requires special ammo, which Ukraine has nearly none of.

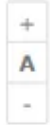
Yes, highly specialized ammo can propel the AH Krab, M777, Phz 2000, Caesar, etc. to ranges of 35-40km or higher, but the average round they use most often has a range of about 24km, slightly less than the average round Russia uses. Russia has systems like the 2S5 Giatsint and 2S7M Malka that can do 30-40km with even normal rounds, and in the case of the 2S7, upwards of 50-60km with specialized ammunition.

As I said time and again, the US was forced to gin up the ammo shortage with DPICM cluster rounds—and their range is even worse, at a measly ~15km or so. This is all not to even mention the fact that Russia's barrel situation is far better than Ukraine's, which means Russia's guns maintain their accuracy far longer, while Ukraine is forced to shoot at minimal distances like 14-16km even with its most long-ranged systems due to barrel wear and the fact that firing at max range would be totally useless. Oh, and by the way—specialized ammo stresses and depletes barrels even faster; you can't have it both ways.

Russia's advantages here are particularly the case in light of [reports like the following](#) that Russia is heavily expanding its barrel production specifically, with Motovilikha and other plants reportedly purchasing new Russian and Chinese heavy duty CNC machines for the process.

—

The Munich conference brought little more than empty speeches, as well as this, which is sure to devastate Putin:



High-ranking participants of the Munich Security Conference took part in an alcohol party "against Putin"

At the Munich Security Conference, an alcohol party was held "against Putin"

SHARE



Jokes aside, there was a pledge from France and Germany for about ~\$4B total in military aid specifically:

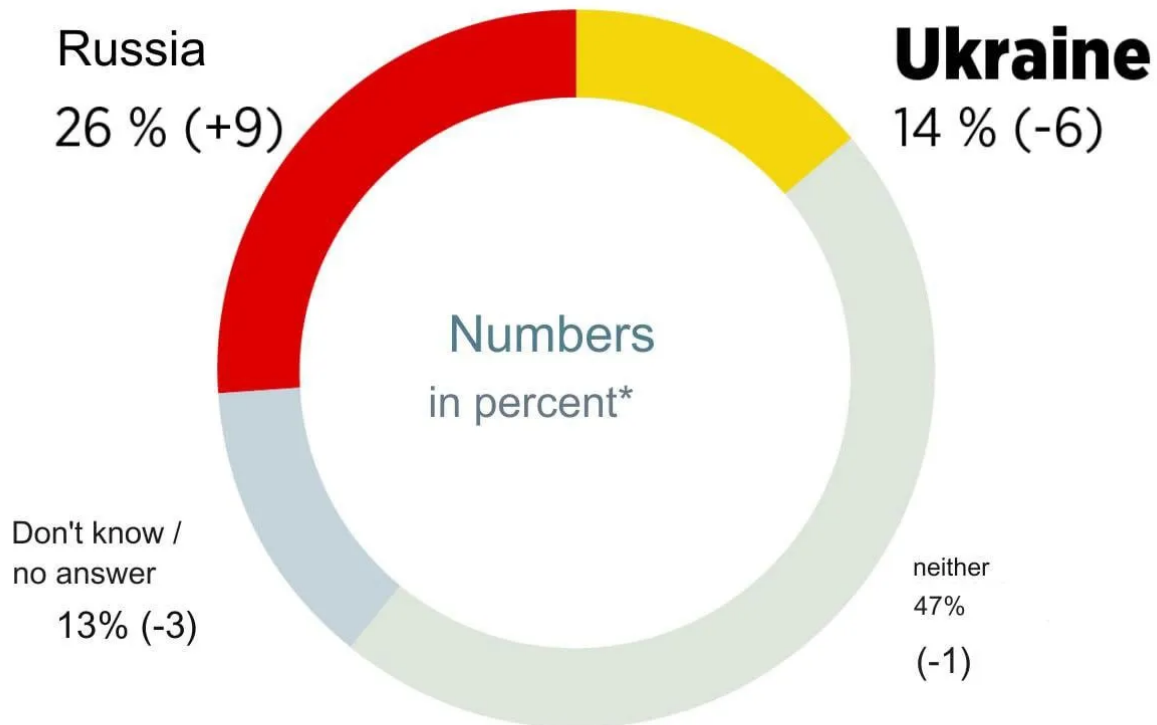
The agreement between Ukraine and France includes a French aid pledge for up to 3 billion euro (\$3.23 billion) for 2024, following 1.7 billion euro in 2022 and 2.1 billion euro in 2023. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Berlin was providing another 1.1 billion euro (\$1.2 billion) package of military aid, including 36 howitzers, 120,000 rounds of artillery ammunition and two more air-defense systems, according to media reports.

Meanwhile, the EU is set to disburse an initial 4.5 billion euro to Ukraine as soon as in the first half of March to help cover the country's urgent budget needs, Bloomberg reported on Saturday, citing European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis.

Kuleba continues to contend that the war costs Ukraine \$100m per day, so that should be about 40 days' worth.

Interestingly, while European and German leaders steadily bankrupt their nations for Ukraine, the latest poll from Germany shows the number of citizens who believe Ukraine will win has drastically plummeted:

Who do you think will win
the war in Ukraine?



*in brackets are the changes compared to the survey from February 17, 2023
info.BILD.de | Source: Representative survey by INSA on February 15/16, 2024, 1004 respondents

The number of Germans who believe in the victory of Ukraine fell by 6% over the year from 20% to 14%

— survey by the sociological institute INSA

As a last note on Munich: rumor had it that one of the main reasons for Zelensky's gala tour hinged specifically on galvanizing European leaders around the question of Zelensky's legitimacy in the post-May 21 period, when his martial law extension expires, technically making him an illegitimate president due to having bypassed elections.

Zelensky's presidential powers to expire May 21 — Ukrainian legislator

Alexander Dubinsky argues that the only situation where the president can continue to fulfill his duties after the expiration of his term is the period until the president-elected takes office

<https://tass.com/world/1745821>

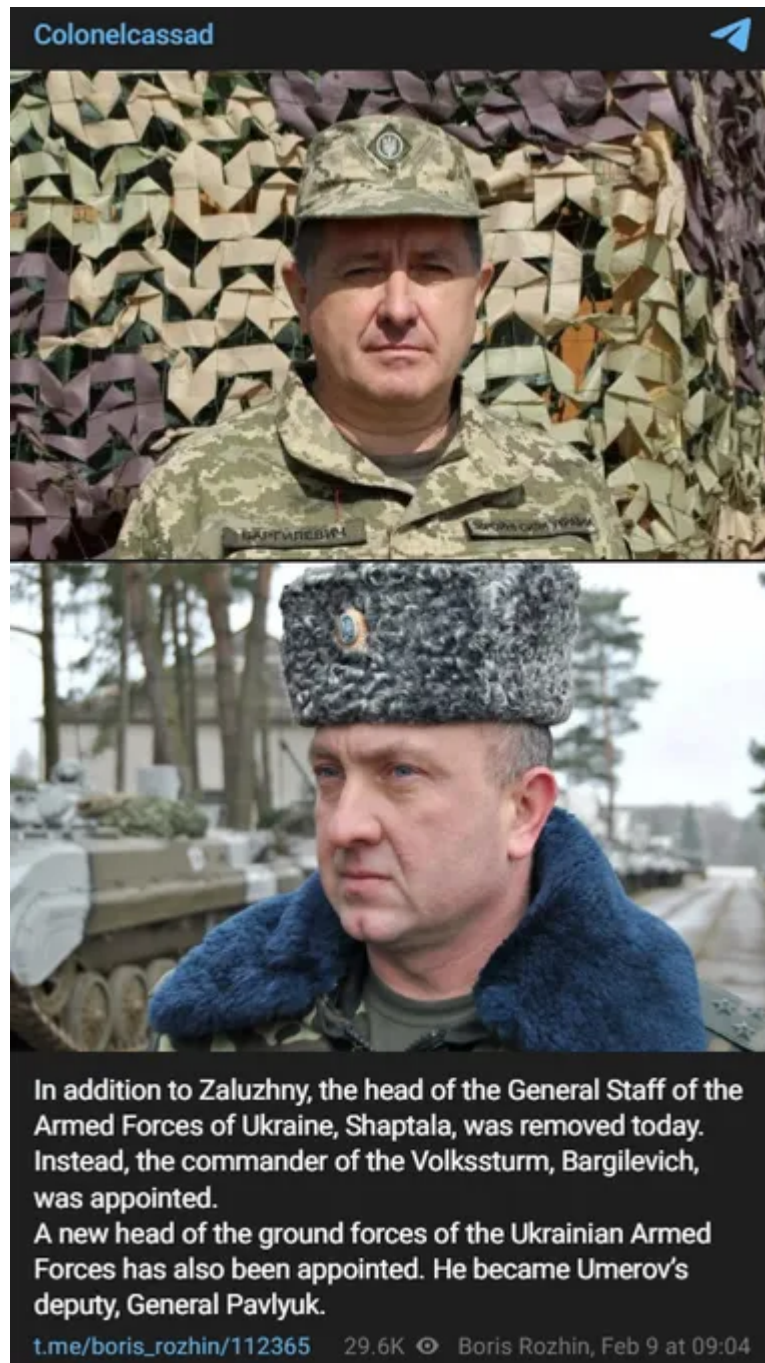
"The powers of the President of Ukraine expire on the night of May 20-21, 2024 and cannot be extended, while those of the Verkhovna Rada can. After May 20, the Rada will be legitimate, but the president will be not," Dubinsky wrote in his Telegram channel.

Zelensky likely sought secret reassurances from European leaders that they will vocally back his presidency's legitimacy during that troubling expiry period, when questions will certainly begin to arise at the least, if not outright challenges to his authority.

In fact, swept under the rug was that along with the more high profile elimination of Zaluzhny, Zelensky did a clean sweep of the entire vast fold of the general staff: [check this link](#) for a detailed list with bios.



<https://militaryland.net/news/changes-at-the-command-of-armed-forces-of-ukraine/>



The point is that, Zelensky has clearly used the ‘headline’ removal of Zaluzhny as cover to actually wipe out the entire general staff and put in people hand-selected by Yermak to be utterly obedient who, most importantly, will not challenge his authority or legitimacy after the critical May 21 expiration. This is all about a power grab—there’s no other explanation, particularly given the fact that Zelensky’s stated reason for firing Zaluzhny was that “he did not present a military plan for 2024.” Obviously, neither has Syrsky, nor is any real plan even conceivably possible given what is public knowledge about Ukraine’s ongoing catastrophic limitations.

No, Zelensky's only chance and hope is to continue biding his time until he can figure out a way to rope NATO into the war via some form of provocation or falseflag. It's one of the reasons he wants F-16s so badly: they have no real effect on Russian airpower, their true threat comes from the escalatory potential of their technical ability to be nuclear-capable weapons carriers, not to mention can be made to fly from the airfields of other countries. Both things have the potential of causing Russia to enter into direct war with NATO.



One last important topic to cover.

Since the buzz of the Tucker Carlson interview, there has been a spate of narrative pushes about Putin allegedly seeking negotiations with Ukraine, or at the least being “open” to it.



Putin definitely played coy and ambiguous in the interview on purpose. The reason is he wants to appear the peacemaker to the right audience but in a slightly disingenuous way. You see, he's ‘open to negotiations’, but only after Ukraine totally

surrenders or “takes into account the new realities”—which is deliberately left open ended.

New realities obviously means things like Russia keeping all the captured territories, among other things. Being clever, Putin knows these are things Zelensky could never accept, because it would mean his overthrow by the hardcore nationalist factions. That means Putin is fairly safe in making the “offer” while knowing realistically it will never happen, and the true goal is to keep the war going to achieve Russia’s maximalist objectives.

Arestovich’s ‘seditious’ video above is still partly true though, just not in the way it seems. He’s right: Putin is the only one of the players that actually wants peace, it’s just he wants it *after* Russia gets what Putin feels it is owed—which is its historical lands back. The main US establishment on the other hand doesn’t want peace at any cost, because the whole point of this war is to wage *eternal* conflict against Russia until it is totally destroyed or subjugated, or at the least wounded and kept in a weakened, enervated state perpetually. Either option requires unceasing escalation and conflict no matter what other side objectives are achieved.

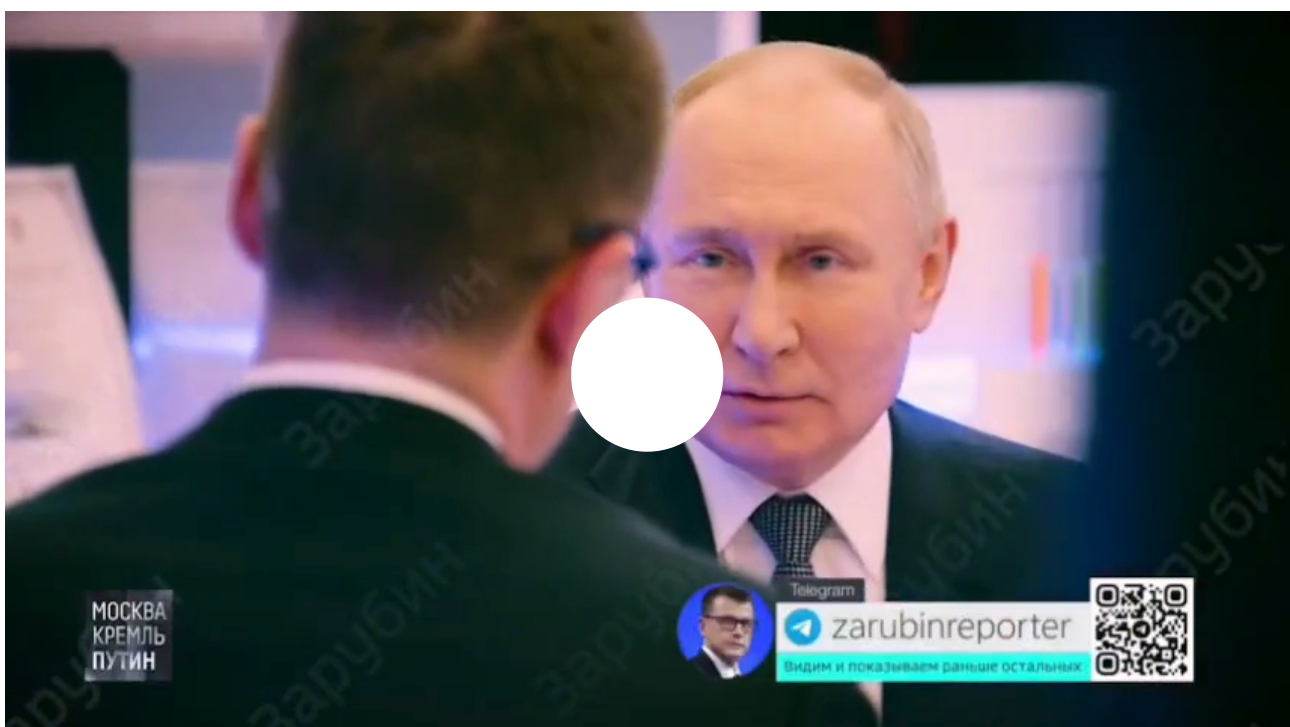
This was supported by a variety of recent utterances from top Russian officials like Medvedev, Peskov, Nebenzya, and Putin himself.

For instance, here Nebenzya states that there is no way the currently controlled regions will ever go back to Ukraine—it is a total nonstarter:



And since we know that this is a red line for Zelensky and co. as well, that means when Putin offers negotiations, he knows it's from the standpoint that the other side will never accept them.

Now, a new Putin statement hammers this point home. He says that everything Ukraine does in the war is merely a form of attempting some tactical gain, the difference being that for Russia, this isn't about such trivial technicalities—it's an existential matter:



Further proof comes from a new report around alleged ‘secret talks’ that were happening in late 2023, when rumors floated that ‘Putin was sending signals he was ready for a ceasefire’:

CONTACTS

Intermediaries met in Turkey in late 2023, according to three Russian sources.

A fourth diplomatic source said that there had been Russian-U.S. unofficial contacts through intermediaries at Russia's initiative but that they appeared to have come to nothing.

The U.S. official said he was unaware of unofficial contact through intermediaries.

According to three Russian sources, Putin's signal was relayed to Washington, where top U.S. officials including White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, Central Intelligence Agency Director Bill Burns and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met.

The idea was that Sullivan would speak to Putin's foreign policy adviser, Yuri Ushakov, and set out the next steps, one of the Russian sources said.

But when the call came in January, Sullivan told Ushakov that Washington was willing to talk about other aspects of the relationship but would not speak about a ceasefire without Ukraine, said one of the Russian sources.

The U.S. official refused to be drawn on any details of Sullivan's purported calls, or whether such a conversation with Ushakov took place.

PUTIN 'READY TO FIGHT ON'

One of the Russian sources expressed frustration with the United States over Washington's insistence that it would not nudge Ukraine towards talks given that the United States was helping to fund the war.

"Putin said: 'I knew they wouldn't do anything'," another of the Russian sources said. "They cut off the root of the contacts which had taken two months to create."

Another Russian source said that the United States did not appear to believe Putin was sincere.

"The Americans didn't believe Putin was genuine about a ceasefire - but he was and is - he is ready to discuss a ceasefire. But equally Putin is also ready to fight on for as long as it takes - and Russia can fight for as long as it takes," the Russian source said.

The Kremlin sees little point in further contacts with the United States on the issue, the Russian sources said, so the war would continue.

As you can see above, the source claims Putin said he knew nothing would come of it, confirming that Putin likes to merely make the gestural offer on account of optics, knowing full well that Ukraine is institutionally not able to accept Russia's bare minimum negotiations requirements.

This Twitter ‘community note’ even dispelled the narrative with a legitimate quote from Putin's interview:



Coach Tommy Tuberville  @SenTuberville · 23h

Last night's @TuckerCarlson's interview with Putin shows that Russia is open to a peace agreement, while it is DC warmongers who want to prolong the war.

That is why I'm voting to stop 60 BILLION MORE of our tax dollars to ...

[Show more](#)



Readers added context

Putin said he would only come to an 'agreement' after destroying Ukraine.

"You need to stop supplying weapons. It will be over within a few weeks. That's it. And then we can agree on some terms" - Putin

en.kremlin.ru/events/preside...

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As you can see, he did say that he can negotiate with Ukraine after it's "over"—i.e. Ukraine has surrendered. And Putin's cunning, in my view, is after this very result:



My View



Following



Saved

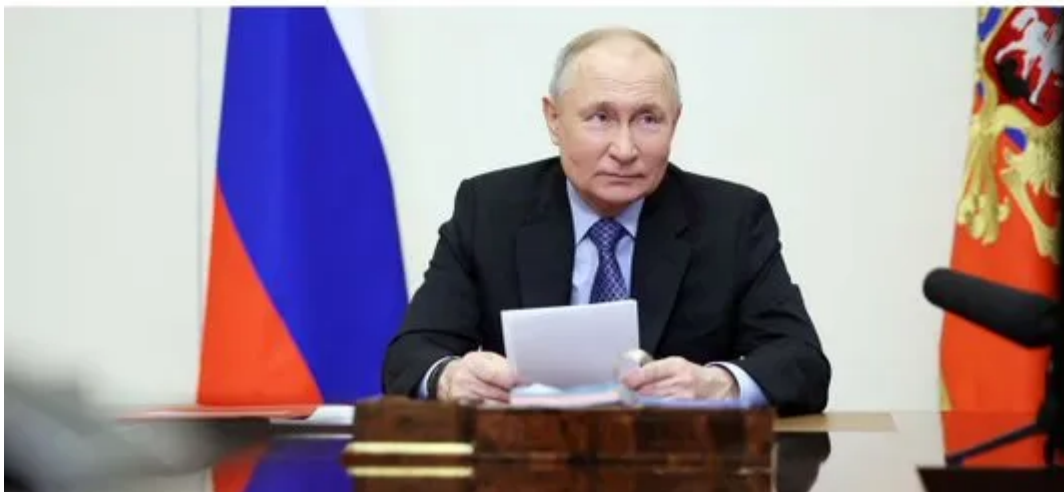
Exclusive: Putin's suggestion of Ukraine ceasefire rejected by United States, sources say

By Guy Faulconbridge and Darya Korsunskaya

February 13, 2024 11:42 AM EST · Updated 21 min ago



Aa



I.e. generating the *perception* that it was in fact the US and allies that continue to reject ceasefires and negotiations.

However, as a small food-for-thought counterpoint, I will say that Arestovich once more has an interestingly insightful take on this count:



In short: he believes he's got Putin psychologically pegged, and that Putin, morally, is loath to the idea of fighting this brother war. We must admit that judging by many aspects of Putin's 'soft-gloved' approach thus far, there is some substance to this idea—though it certainly doesn't mean Putin will surrender. But rather that he may be a sort of tortured figure, allowing his principled faculties of reason to overpower his moral sentimentality to the detriment of his psyche in doing what he knows must be done.



On the topic of polls, here's a new survey from Ukraine showing the population's current sentiment in the wake of the Zaluzhny debacle—you can clearly see why Zelensky had to remove him post-haste:

ratings

If the presidential elections of Ukraine were held today, for which of the following would you vote?(from those who have decided)



The first sociology after Zaluzhny's resignation was a survey of Advanced Legal Initiatives.

- **Ukrainians are categorically against Zaluzhny's resignation (against -80.45%) and forced mobilization (against - 89.72%).**

- **The absolute majority supports voluntary mobilization with financial motivation (for – 93.97%) and the conscription of security forces working in the rear (for – 86.54%).**

- **If the presidential elections were held today, the result would be as follows: Zaluzhny - 38.16%, Zelensky - 16.17%, Tymoshenko - 9.91%, Poroshenko - 8.08%.**

- **If Zaluzhny did not take part in the elections: Zelensky - 21.01%, Tymoshenko - 18.83%, Poroshenko - 14.14%, Klitschko - 6.64%.**

- **4 parties would enter parliament: Zaluzhny - 36.92%, Zelensky - 12.76%, Tymoshenko - 9.84%, Poroshenko - 7.65%.**

The survey involved 5,105 respondents aged 18 years and over, using the face-to-face interview method and by telephone through the IQR application. The error is no more than 2.0%.

Note the fourth item above: even if you knock Zaluzhny out of the picture and a hypothetical election takes place in the near future—perhaps forced onto Zelensky after the May 21 expiry—Zelensky would only enjoy a tiny, and likely shrinking, lead over Yulia Tymoshenko, and even Poroshenko. His fall from grace is almost totally complete.

And some more (link to polls below):

Only 40% of respondents trust the new Commander-in-Chief of Syrsky. The survey was conducted in February and 35% (!) did not know who the Syrsky was, — [KMIS](#)

Most Ukrainians trust Zaluzhny — 92%.

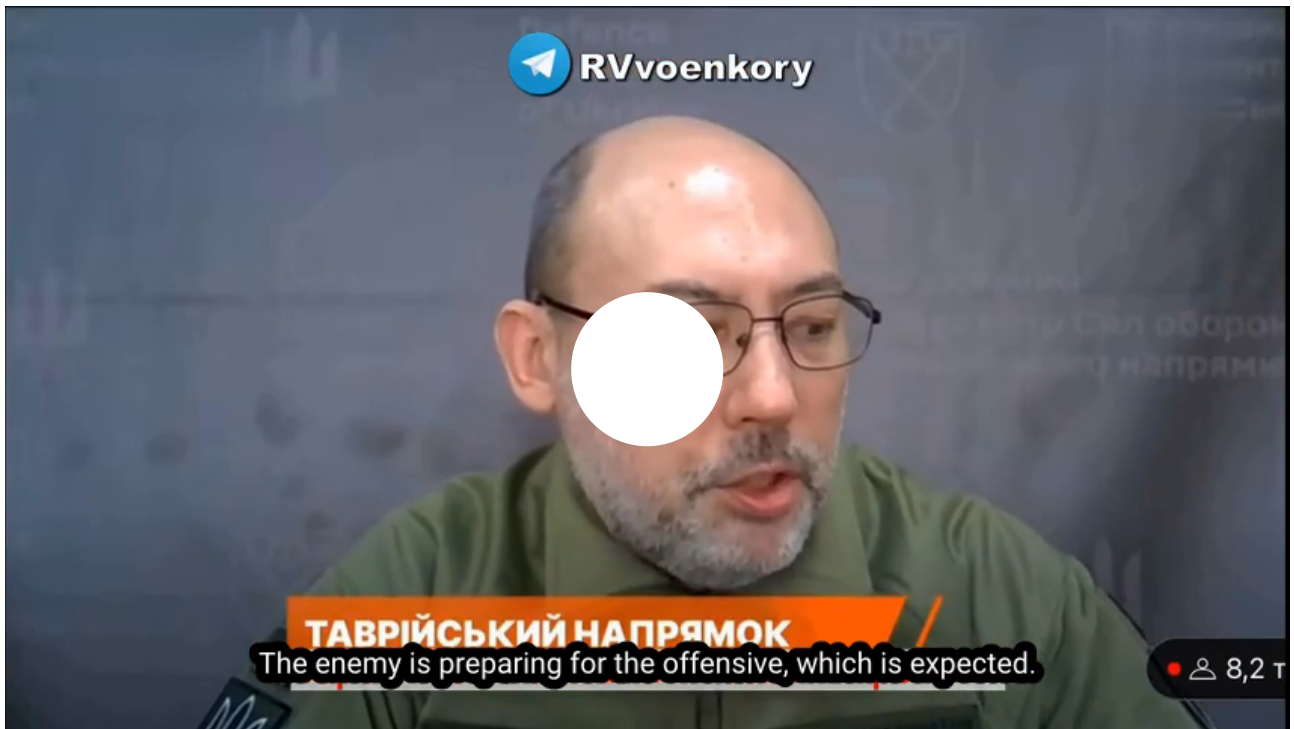
For 2 months, the rating of Ukrainian confidence in Zelensky decreased by 13%.

In Ukraine, the share of those who believe that things are developing in the right direction continues to decline. In December 2023, 54% considered the direction to be correct, and now the figure has dropped to 44%. Residents of the West of Ukraine are more critical.

The trajectory of every single figure shows a dramatic and catastrophic decline in confidence in everything, from the country's leadership, to its direction. Such a path is not sustainable in the least—the question is: when will the dam break?



For the past week or two, there have been rumors that a massive Russian force has been gathering on the Zaporozhye line. Here's the AFU spokesman days ago:








🇷🇺🇺🇦 Ukrainians now in panic also on the south.

The Russian army has concentrated huge forces and is preparing for a new offensive near Robotino on the Zaporozhye front, according to Ukrainians.

🗨️ "The group that has concentrated on the Orekhovo sector over the past few days or weeks exceeds in its size the group currently deployed on the Avdiivka direction. Obviously, the Russians didn't go there for a walk," said the spokesman for the Ukrainian Armed Forces group "Tavria" Likhovyi. ”

🗨️ "Accumulation of significant Russian forces towards Robotino was noticed over 2 weeks ago," also reported one of the officers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, quoted by Ukrainian sources. ”

Russian

   Враг поднял панику: колонны [more](#)

English

   The enemy raised a panic: columns of tanks of the Russian army are advancing near Rabotino on the Zaporozhye front

■ In fact, our troops seized the initiative in the Orekhovsky sector many months ago and are constantly attacking the enemy, advancing at Rabotino and Verbovoy towards Orekhov.

■ Now the Armed Forces of Ukraine are celebrating the particularly powerful work of artillery and aviation, fearing that this may be preparation before the start of a wave of powerful offensive.

t.me/RVvoenkor



Now as of this writing, the offensive seems to have begun, with reports rolling in by the hour of breakthroughs of Ukrainian lines near Rabotino:



This appears to have been a well-timed plan to capitalize on any potential disarray from Ukraine's hasty Avdeevka collapse, to nab them in another unsuspecting direction. Once again, this is part and parcel to the boa constrictor strategy of which I'll write in the upcoming Part 2 of the paid piece in a couple days.

A quick update on the space doomsday weapon situation: it appears our report here was accurate, as CNN now 'confirms' that the weapon in question pretty much fits the description I hypothesized in the [previous article](#):

≡ **CNN** politics SCOTUS Congress Facts First 2024 Elections

Exclusive: Russia attempting to develop nuclear space weapon to destroy satellites with massive energy wave, sources familiar with intel say



By Katie Bo Lillis, Jim Sciutto, Kristin Fisher and Natasha Bertrand, CNN
🕒 5 minute read · Updated 7:56 PM EST, Fri February 16, 2024

<https://us.cnn.com/2024/02/16/politics/russia-nuclear-space-weapon-intelligence/index.html>

Russia is trying to develop a nuclear space weapon that would destroy satellites by creating a massive energy wave when detonated, potentially crippling a vast swath of the commercial and government satellites that the world below depends on to talk on cell

phones, pay bills, and surf the internet, according to three sources familiar with US intelligence about the weapon.

In fact the article suspiciously almost seems to mimic my own word for word:

Experts say this kind of weapon could have the potential to wipe out mega constellations of small satellites, like SpaceX's Starlink, which has been successfully used by Ukraine in its ongoing war with Russia.

I mentioned Russia's 55th Brigade from Tuva. Ukrainian Nazis showed their colors and were very upset by the Tuvan heroes:



NyaVikingen
@NyaVikingen

Follow



The “liberators” of adviivka...
Putin sent these Asian scum to slaughter
Europeans, and somehow retards still think
he’s based savior of the white race.



05:32 · 18.02.24 From Earth · **126K** Views

56 Reposts **125** Quotes **455** Likes **78** Bookmarks

The particular poster above has ‘Azov Enjoyer’ in his bio:

NyaVikingen

@NyaVikingen

Scanian, Paleoprogressive, Pan-European, White Internationalist, Azov Enjoyer, Russophobic, Pro EU, Pro NATO

📅 Joined January 2022

2,873 Following 1,774 Followers

Well, to rub it in and end on a positive note, here's the same 55th receiving their prestigious honorary 'Guards' title just last month, for heroism and unbreakable courage in combat:



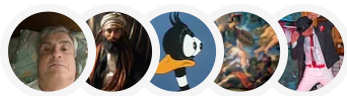
Lastly, here's a segment from a new report in liberated Avdeevka showing a resident who waited out the Russian army. Listen to what he says when asked about the Ukrainians who have been kicked out: *"Those Germans? Drive them to Berlin!"*



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Gerrard White · 6 hrs ago

19 Febuary 2024 FTNATO Dead End Gulch

'Nato has no choice but to strengthen it's bulwarks against Putin'

<https://www.ft.com/content/9828c5c5-2568-47ce-8253-a2d3a7cc9eba>

Ungainly language -The sea faring metaphor a comforting reminder of more glorious times, little old lady NATO now plays the victim of the mighty Putin, all powerful yet who single handedly moves his great country into disaster after catastrophe –

'With no checks on his capacity to make fatal mistakes, an ageing Russian ruler surrounded by sycophants may embark on even more reckless moves in coming year's'

This sounds like an exact description of the US President, apart from the Russian bit – especially as the author admits that the RF has/is winning the Ukraine war – whereas no one thinks Biden can win either the Ukraine war, or the Gaza war, or the China war, or the Iran war, or even the so called Houthi (Ansar Allah) war, but maybe might win the Haiti war with the help of the 30 Kenyan policeman they requested, if the Kenyan judge lets them go (unlikely)

The author is merely imitating VdL and talking up a forlorn and factfree and unlikely EUNATO re armaments plot

The one real world reason given for all this talk is how essential it is for NATO to defend the eternally threatened Baltics under Article 5 – the Latvia government famously used to claim in case of a RF invasion Latvia would survive for 'twelve minutes' –Less today or tomorrow

[Expand full comment](#)

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2 replies



Ahnaf Ibn Qais The Fall of The West 6 hrs ago

I watched snippets of the so-called 'Munich Security Conference'... it was nothing more than a bunch of snivelling out of touch 'Elite' engaged in Hopium & Copium shenanigans to try & continue justifying their grift worth hundreds of billions of USD & Euros. As Project Ukraine is crushed decisively on the battlefield, the Grift will no doubt continue for a while still; though at this point all of said money is really just going toward bribing the various middlemen, bureaucrats, etc. Tragedy!

♡ LIKE (36) 💬 REPLY ↗ SHARE ...

7 replies

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