

Britain's Kursk Invasion Backfires?



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British Challenger 2 tanks reached Ukraine with enormous fanfare, ahead of Kiev's long-delayed, ultimately catastrophic 2023 "counteroffensive". On top of encouraging other proxy war sponsors to provide Ukraine with armoured fighting vehicles, Western audiences were **widely told** the tank - **hitherto marketed** to international buyers as "indestructible" - made Kiev's ultimate victory a *fait accompli*. As it was, Challenger 2 tanks deployed to Robotnye in September were **almost instantly incinerated** by Russian fire, then very **quietly withdrawn** from combat altogether.

Hence, many online commentators were surprised when footage of the Challenger 2 in action in Kursk began to **circulate widely** on August 13th. Furthermore, numerous mainstream outlets dramatically drew attention to the tank's deployment. Several were **explicitly briefed** by British military sources that it marked the first time in history London's tanks "have been used in combat on Russian territory." Disquietingly, *The Times* **now reveals** this was a deliberate propaganda and lobbying strategy, spearheaded by Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

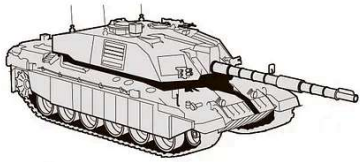
Prior to the Challenger 2's presence in Kursk breaking, Starmer and Defence Secretary John Healey had reportedly "been in talks about how far to go to confirm growing British involvement in the incursion towards Kursk."

Ultimately, they decided “to be more open about Britain’s role in a bid to persuade key allies to do more to help - and convince the public that Britain’s security and economic prosperity is affected by events on the fields of Ukraine.” A “senior Whitehall source” added:

“There won’t be shying away from the idea of British weapons being used in Russia as part of Ukraine’s defence. We don’t want any uncertainty or nervousness over Britain’s support at this critical moment and a half-hearted or uncertain response might have indicated that.”

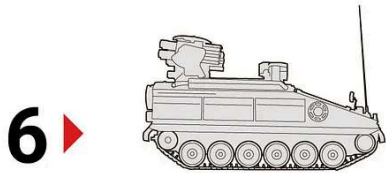
Arming Ukraine

Some of the British assets that have been donated to Ukraine. Challenger 2 tanks from the UK have been used in the incursion into Russia



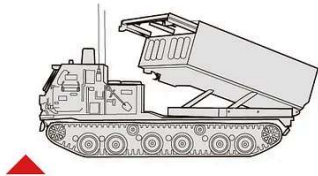
14 ▲

Challenger 2 tanks with thousands of rounds of ammunition



6 ▶

Stormer armoured vehicles fitted with Starstreak launchers



Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS)

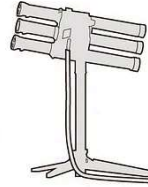
1,000 ▶

Vallon metal detectors and 100 bomb de-arming kits



More than
1,800 ▶

air defence missiles including Starstreak HVM, Martlet LMM, ASRAAM, AMRAAM and others



Strategic Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS)

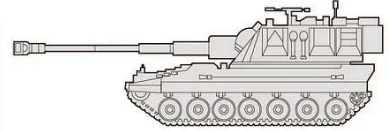
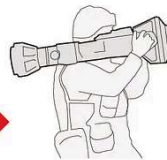


More than
1,000,000 ▲
rounds of ammunition (various types)

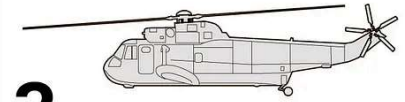


More than
12,000 ▶

anti-tank weapons (including over 5,000 Next Generation Light Anti-Tank [NLAW] missiles, Javelin, over 1,300 Brimstone and others)

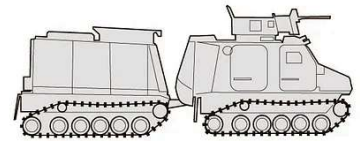


All of the UK's AS90 ▲
self-propelled
155mm guns



3 ▲

Sea King helicopters



20 ▲

Viking amphibious vehicles

More than ▶
4,000 items
of military clothing



Graphic by The Times and The Sunday Times

In other words, London is taking the lead in marking itself out as a formal belligerent in the proxy war, in the hope other Western countries - particularly the US - will follow suit. What's more, *The Times* strongly hints that Kursk is to all intents and purposes a British invasion. The outlet records:

“Unseen by the world, British equipment, including drones, have played a central role in Ukraine’s new offensive and British personnel have been closely advising the Ukrainian military...on a scale matched by no other country.”

Britain's grand plans don't stop there. Healey and Foreign Secretary David Lammy “have set up a joint Ukraine unit,” divided between the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence. The pair “held a joint briefing, with officials, for a cross-party group of 60 MPs on Ukraine,” while “Starmer has also asked the National Security Council to draw up plans to provide Ukraine with a broader range of support.” On top of military assistance, “industrial, economic, and diplomatic support” are also being explored.

The Times adds that in coming weeks, “Healey will attend a new meeting of the Ukraine Defence Coordination Group,” an **international alliance** of 57 countries overseeing the Western weaponry flooding into Kiev. There, “Britain will press European allies to send more equipment and give Kyiv more leeway to use them in Russia.” The British Defence Ministry also reportedly “spoke last week to Lloyd Austin, the US defence secretary, and has been wooing Boris Pistorius, his German opposite number.”

Evidently, the new Labour government has an ambitious vision for the proxy war's continuation. Yet, if the “counterinvasion” is anything to go by, it's already dead in the water. As *The Times* notes, the imbroglio is primarily “designed to boost morale at home and shore up Zelensky's position,” while relieving pressure on the collapsing Donbass frontline by forcing Russia to redirect forces to Kursk. Instead, Moscow “has capitalised on the absence of

four crack Ukrainian regiments to press their attacks around Pokrovsk and Chasiv Yar.”

Ukraine 'at risk of losing Donbas' with Kursk offensive | Ukraine War



Similarly, commenting on Starmer’s wideranging efforts to compel overt Western action against Russia, a “defence expert” told *The Times*: “if it looks as if the Brits [are] too far ahead of their NATO allies, it might be counterproductive.” This analysis is prescient, for there are ample indications London’s latest attempt to ratchet tensions and drag the US and Europe ever-deeper into the proxy war quagmire has already been highly “counterproductive”, and boomeranged quite spectacularly. Indeed, it appears Washington has finally had enough of London’s escalatory connivances.

In repeated press conferences and media briefings since August 6th, US officials have firmly **distanced themselves** from the Kursk incursion, denying any involvement in its planning or execution, or even being forewarned by Kiev. Empire house journal *Foreign Policy* **has reported** that Ukraine’s swoop caught the Pentagon, State Department, and White House off-guard. The Biden administration is purportedly not only enormously unhappy “to have been kept out of the loop,” but “skeptical of the military logic” behind the “counterinvasion”.

On top being a clear suicide mission, the eagerly advertised presence of Western weapons and vehicles on Russian soil “has put the Biden administration in an extremely awkward position.” Washington has since the proxy war erupted been wary of **provoking retaliations** against Western countries and their overseas assets, and the conflict spilling outside Ukraine’s borders. Adding to US irritations, the British-directed Kursk misadventure **also torpedoed** ongoing efforts to secure an agreement to halt “strikes on energy and power infrastructure on both sides.”

This comes as Kiev prepares for a harrowing winter without heat or light, due to devastating **Russian attacks** on its national energy grid. Putin has moreover **made clear** that Ukrainian actions in Kursk mean there is no longer scope for a wider negotiated settlement at all. Which is to say Moscow will now only accept unconditional surrender. The US has also seemingly changed course as a result of the “counterinvasion”.

On August 16th, it was reported that Washington had prohibited Ukraine’s use of British-made, long-range Storm Shadow missiles against Russian territory. Given securing wider Western acquiescence to such strikes is, per *The Times*, a core objective for Starmer, this can only be considered a harsh rebuke, before the Labour government’s escalatory lobbying efforts have even properly taken off. The Biden administration had in May **granted permission** for Kiev to conduct limited strikes in Russia, using guided munitions up to a 40-mile range.

Even that mild authorisation may be rescinded in due course. Berlin, which like Britain had initially **proudly promoted** the presence of its tanks in Kursk, is now decisively shifting away from the proxy war. On August 17th, German Finance Minister Christian Lindner **announced a halt** to any and all new military aid to Ukraine as part of a wider bid to slash federal government spending. The *Wall Street Journal* reporting three days earlier that Kiev **was responsible** for Nord Stream II’s destruction may be no coincidence.

In Russland! Ukrainer rücken mit deutschen Panzern vor

Germany's *Bild* newspaper: "In Russia, Ukraine advances with German tanks!"

The narrative of the Russo-German pipeline's bombing detailed by the outlet was absurd in the extreme. Conveniently too, the WSJ acknowledged that admissions of "Ukrainian officials who participated in or are familiar with the plot" aside, "all arrangements" to strike Nord Stream "were made verbally, leaving no paper trail." As such, the paper's sources "believe it would be impossible to put any of the commanding officers on trial, because no evidence exists beyond conversations among top officials."

Such an evidentiary deficit provides Berlin with an ideal pretext to step away from the proxy war, while insulating Kiev from any legal repercussions. The narrative of Ukraine's unilateral culpability for the Nord Stream bombings also helpfully distracts from the attack's most likely perpetrators. This journalist **has exposed** how a shadowy cabal of British intelligence operatives were the masterminds, and potential executors, of the October 2022 Kerch Bridge bombing.



Kerch Bridge in flames following its British-planned bombing

That escalatory incident, like Nord Stream's destruction, was known about in advance, and **apparently opposed**, by the CIA. Chris Donnelly, the British military intelligence veteran who orchestrated the Kerch Bridge attack, has **privately condemned** Washington's reluctance to embroil itself further in the proxy war, declaring "this US position must be challenged, firmly and at once." In December that year, the **BBC confirmed** that British officials were worried about the Biden administration's "innate caution", and had "stiffened the US resolve at all levels", via "pressure."

The determination of Washington's **self-appointed** "junior partner" to escalate the proxy conflict into all-out hot war between Russia and the West has only intensified under Starmer's new Labour government. Yet, the Empire gives every appearance of refusing to take the bait, while seeking to curb London's belligerent fantasies. This may be an encouraging sign that the proxy war is at last reaching its end. But we must remain vigilant. British intelligence is unlikely to allow the US to withdraw without a fight.



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**John Orban** Existentialist Musings Aug 21 ❤️ Liked by Kit Klarenberg

It's no wonder "Washington" is "hesitant" to enter the "fray." After all, our military is really good at murdering women and children and blowing up wedding parties. You can't expect them to actually fight against a professional army that is ruthless in its tactics and devastating in its results. Besides, they are too busy funding "our" proxy in Israhell to, well, murder women and children.

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**Gogs** Gogs's Substack Aug 21 ❤️ Liked by Kit Klarenberg

So Starmer is already not only further impoverishing the poor and less well-off, he's actively endangering this country. I wonder if Rupert's paywalled Times noticed that, or is it all By Jingo bullshit? I don't recall Armageddon being in the Labour manifesto...We need a petition to stop this madness.

❤️ LIKE (32) 💬 REPLY ↗️ SHARE ...

16 replies

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