

UKRAINE AFLAME 2

War Chronicles: the second month.
Speeches and addresses
by the President of Ukraine
Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Kharkiv
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Foreword

This book is the second volume of a publishing project that has been created to chronicle events related to the hot phase of Russia's 2014 war against Ukraine. It was then that, taking advantage of the fact that our country's Army and Special Services were almost completely destroyed under Yanukovych's rule and with the new, Maidan-created Government not yet controlling most of the country's processes, Russia conducted a blitzkrieg to seize Crimea. A pseudo-referendum was conducted where the Russian Army — that was based in Sevastopol and used disguised military together with Special Services — was used to actually capture parts of both Luhansk and Donetsk regions, creating gangster enclaves in Ukraine which, through two rounds of Minsk agreements, with the help of Europeans, fixed their status. Eight years later, on February 24, 2022, a new phase of this war began, the totalitarian one, with the use of modern weapons — the largest war in Europe since World War II. A war that won't ever be called a "local conflict" by future historians.

The first month was, sure enough, the most difficult and dangerous period. It was then that the Ukrainian people proved to everyone that the whole country united against the enemy, that the number of collaborators and the fifth column, on which the invaders were counting, was negligible, namely the Russian-speaking East of Ukraine in no case wanted to be part of Russian territory. The Ukrainian Armed Forces,

trusted by the Ukrainian people, proved to be a modern army that stopped the “second-largest army of the world”, preventing the capture of neither the capital of Ukraine — Kyiv, nor its early days capital Kharkiv.

It was during the second month of the war that weapon supplies from NATO and other democracies around the world increased. This became possible through the systematic support of Ukraine’s main allies — the United States and Great Britain — and the open diplomacy of the Ukrainian President with his frank, harsh, often undiplomatic speeches before the parliaments of the world that took place during this period. Polish friends, who provided us with their territory for operations to obtain and transport modern military equipment and to coach the Ukrainian military, did not pay attention to the constant threats of Russia, including with nuclear weapons.

It was in the second month of the war that the north of Ukraine was liberated from Russian invaders. The joy of victory was overshadowed by the fact that numerous facts of enemy crimes against civilians were revealed in the liberated territories. Almost two thousand bodies of killed Ukrainian citizens were found in the Bucha — Vorzel — Irpin — Hostomel agglomeration. The rape, torture, and execution of civilians, documented by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies as well as by journalists, have confirmed to the world the brutal way in which the Russians are waging war. The road from Stoyanka to Borodyanka witnessed the destruction of settlements by shelling, and convoys of cars with refugees, as well as the shooting of advancing Russian troops.

A separate page in the history of the war is the feat of Mariupol — soldiers of the 36th Brigade and the Azov Regiment, who did not leave the city and continued to resist,

being surrounded by devastating bomb shelling by the enemy with all possible calibers and weapons. The destruction of a peaceful city and its population, the blockade of humanitarian columns, the forcible “filtering” of civilians, their bullying, their deportation to Russia, and the separation of families are just some horrors the Russian military machine “offered” to Ukrainians.

Ukrainian soldiers who stopped the enemies forced them to lose behind numerous manpower killed and wounded along every meter of advance. As well as the military equipment — not only shattered, but also abandoned during the retreat, which allowed Ukrainian soldiers to replenish scrap metal with Russian tanks and armored vehicles, but also to transfer undamaged equipment to the army. It was during this period that a Ukrainian missile hit Russian warships in the port of Berdyansk, which stopped the transfer of military equipment in the direction of Zaporizhzhia and Mariupol. But, the main success at sea was the destruction near the Zmiiny Island of the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet — the missile cruiser “Moscow” together with its crew — by the Ukrainian-made missiles “Neptune” with help of Turkish “Baryaktar” drones.

It is in these days that Ukrainian diplomacy has achieved another success — a difficult path to Ukraine’s accession to the European Union has begun. The continuation of the policy of tightening sanctions against the aggressor has allowed the adoption of another package of sanctions, which significantly limited not only Russia’s fuel exports, but also the supply of technological equipment, means of communications and much more to Russia, which will lead Russian economy to a significant downturn even this very year.

This war will continue for more than one day. Yet, it is clear that it will end where and when the Ukrainian leadership decides. Ukraine will not cede its own territory not only as of February 24 this year, but also as of 1991, when our independence was gained.

Oleksandr Krasovytskyy

March 25, 2022

News Round-Up

- ▶ Over the past day, the Ukrainian military destroyed 12 tanks, 20 units of equipment and 9 enemy artillery systems; more than 200 occupiers were eliminated.
- ▶ In the Donetsk region, two children were killed and three were injured in the Russian shelling over the past 24 hours.
- ▶ Five civilians were killed and eight were injured in the Luhansk region last night. During the night, the Russian military were destroying houses in Rubizhne, killing at least two people.
- ▶ Over the past 24 hours, the occupiers fired 55 missiles and bombs at the Kharkiv region, as well as they increased activity of MLRS “Hrad” and “Hurricane” — with more than 240 shellings.
- ▶ Ukraine received a record amount of humanitarian aid—more than 10 thousand tons.
- ▶ During the night, the fighters of a separate Azov Special Force detachment destroyed 5 trucks and 2 landing combat vehicles, as well as more than 20 occupiers.

- ▶ In the occupied Kherson, the occupiers kidnapped the deputy of the Korabelny District Council Dmytro Afanasyev. After the dispersal of the pro-Ukrainian rally, Dmytro defended his wife, whom they tried to detain. He was severely beaten for this: he was diagnosed with numerous hematomas and broken ribs at the hospital. Two hours later, the Russian military arrived to his home to search the family. All the men in the house were detained. On March 23, the house was re-searched and one of the detainees, who reported brutal torture, was released. Other detained men are still in captivity and continue to be bullied.

- ▶ In the village of Kalynivka, Fastiv District, Kyiv region, as a result of shelling by Russian troops, incendiary weapons hit the oil depot which was subsequently caught in fire.

- ▶ The Ukrainian Armed Forces liberated the village of Lukyanivka near Kyiv; they destroyed a Russian stronghold, and killed 40 occupiers.

- ▶ Since the beginning of the war, the Armed Forces have seized at least 117 Russian tanks. Currently, there are more tanks in the Armed Forces than at the beginning of the war — Forbes, Oryx.

- ▶ The total combat losses of the enemy from February 24 to March 25 were approximately as follows: Personnel — about 16,100; tanks — 561; armored combat vehicles — 1625; artillery systems — 291; MLRS — 90; Air Defense means — 49; aircraft — 115; helicopters — 125; automotive equipment — 1089; ships / boats — 5; fuel

tanks — 72; UAV of operational and tactical level — 53; special military equipment — 18.

- ▶ In Kharkiv, the occupiers fired artillery and “Hrads” systems at a city polyclinic where humanitarian aid was distributed, killing four civilians.
- ▶ Mariupol City Council said that about 300 civilians were killed in a bombardment by a Russian plane at the local Drama Theater.
- ▶ Since the beginning of the war, the SBU (Security Service of Ukraine) has detained more than 350 members of the enemy DRGs (sabotage and reconnaissance groups).
- ▶ In Chornobaivka near Kherson, the Armed Forces of Ukraine liquidated the commander of the 49th Army of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Lieutenant General Yakov Rezantsev.
- ▶ The Armed Forces of Ukraine liquidated Colonel of the 810th Separate Guards Brigade of the Black Sea Fleet Oleksiy Sharov in Mariupol.
- ▶ The American company *Maxar Technologies* showed satellite images of the destroyed Russian large landing ship “Saratov” by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the port of the occupied Berdyansk.
- ▶ “*Since the start of the war, the Russian military has destroyed and damaged at least 59 buildings of spiritual significance, including nearby buildings, in at least eight Regions*”, — the State Service for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience said. According to the agency,

the enemy military destroy an average of two buildings a day.

- ▶ The occupiers launched a missile strike at Vinnytsia.
- ▶ In Mariupol, the occupiers destroyed the Children's Rehabilitation Center, which was built in autumn 2021 in conjunction with the European Investment Bank.
- ▶ Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania have set up a joint working group to investigate war crimes committed by Russian troops in Ukraine.
- ▶ *“The UN has received data confirming the existence of mass graves of victims of Russian shelling in besieged Mariupol”*, — said the head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine Matilda Bogner.
- ▶ 7,331 people were evacuated through humanitarian corridors on Friday, with a total of 37,606 people during the week.
- ▶ In the Donetsk and Luhansk directions, the Armed Forces repulsed 9 attacks by Russian troops. 8 Russian tanks, 17 armored vehicles and 11 enemy trucks were destroyed. The total loss of Russian troops amounted to 170 servicemen. The Air Defense shot down 3 enemy planes and 3 *Orlan-10* UAVs over Donbas area.
- ▶ Ukraine has appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to obtain from Russia lists of citizens forcibly deported from Mariupol and to provide them with the opportunity to return to Ukraine.

- ▶ The National Research Foundation of Ukraine has launched the project “Every voice must be heard”, in which Ukrainian scientists appeal to the international scientific community with a story about the losses of the national science caused by the Russian aggression, as well as a request to influence their governments to demand greater support for Ukraine including heavy armament.
- ▶ In the Poltava Region, law enforcement officers confiscated 11 enemy tanks from local residents, which somehow fell into their possession after the Russian invasion.

Speech
by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy
at a meeting of the European Council

25 March 2022. 01:03

Greetings to all of you, greetings to all our friends, friends of Ukraine!

Greetings to all who support freedom!

Mr. President of the European Council, my friend Charles, I congratulate you and congratulate all of us on your re-election. I think this is very important and this is right.

I am grateful for the opportunity to address you and the nations of Europe.

Today it's already been a month since the Russian invasion. After 8 years of aggression in Donbas. The month of the great war.

In short, about its chronicle. Because everything is in my head and everything is fragments. Unfortunately, tragic ones.

It all started on February 24. From Russia. When the missiles flew. Early in the morning. Against our peaceful cities. People have still been sleeping. Death has already come.

Russia sent armored vehicles against us. Brought several thousand tanks to Ukraine.

It's hard to count how many of them have already been burned. How many can still kill us.

Bombs fell on our people. From planes that took off from Belarus. And they didn't even admit that they did it.

Russia captured the Chornobyl NPP. Staff have not been released for 24 days there. Imagine, people lived 24 days at such a facility, worked at such a facility. These are our people.

So that nothing terrible happens in Chornobyl again. To prevent the catastrophe.

And the Russian military held them hostage.

Russian tanks fired at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

Russia fired missiles at Babyn Yar.

It has already destroyed more than 230 schools and 155 kindergartens. Killed 128 children. Fired missiles at universities. Burns residential neighborhoods with rocket artillery.

Whole cities, villages. Just to ashes. Nothing remains. The Russian military killed journalists. Although they saw the inscription “Press” on them. They may not have been taught to read. Only to kill.

Russia has blocked Mariupol. This is a blockade that no one could have imagined in our time. Hundreds of thousands of people without water, without food. Under constant shelling, under constant bombing.

The Russian militaries deliberately blow up hospitals, maternity hospitals, shelters. They even blow up shelters, imagine! Knowing for sure that people are hiding there.

They killed 96-year-old Borys Romanchenko in Kharkiv. A Russian projectile flew into his apartment. Into the apartment of a man who survived the Nazi concentration camps, but could not survive Russia that went to our Ukrainian Kharkiv. Thank God, our military stopped Russia there.

Russian troops are using phosphorus bombs — it was this morning. Rape women. Loot houses. Destroy churches! All churches. Even those of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Abducted more than 2,000 children from Ukraine. We don't know where our children are, where our 2,000 children are. Fire at humanitarian convoys. They don't care who's there.

Children, women, church representatives who accompany the humanitarian cargo.

They kill people in Donetsk and say it's us. They say it's us, the "nationalists".

Russia is doing all this. For a month already. On our land. And Ukraine? What is Ukraine doing?

It did not go to a foreign land. Never dreamed of any war. Shoots down missiles. Urges strangers to lay down their arms and return home. For the sake of life.

Do you understand? For the sake of life. Not death.

Heals and feeds war prisoners. Allows them to contact their relatives by phone. Collects the corpses of Russian soldiers from the fields, which they simply leave, abandon. Hundreds and hundreds.

Ukraine has united for peace. And for the sake of peace it unites the world. Tries to unblock the besieged cities.

Maintains the safe operation of nuclear power plants. Even in the presence of the occupiers.

Calls on the IAEA to intervene and patiently explains to the international bureaucracy what is happening. Evacuates people from dangerous areas. Does not stop trying to deliver humanitarian aid. Records Russian war crimes. Gathers evidence.

Invites journalists. Maintains the functioning of all institutions of a normal state.

Defends its own country!

And every morning... Do you hear me? Every morning, the whole state, the whole of Ukraine — children, grandparents — everyone honors the memory of all those who died for our state with a moment of silence.

Have you heard anything like this on Russian television? Have you seen this in their schools?

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