



**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE
SITUATION REPORT**

July 17, 2023



Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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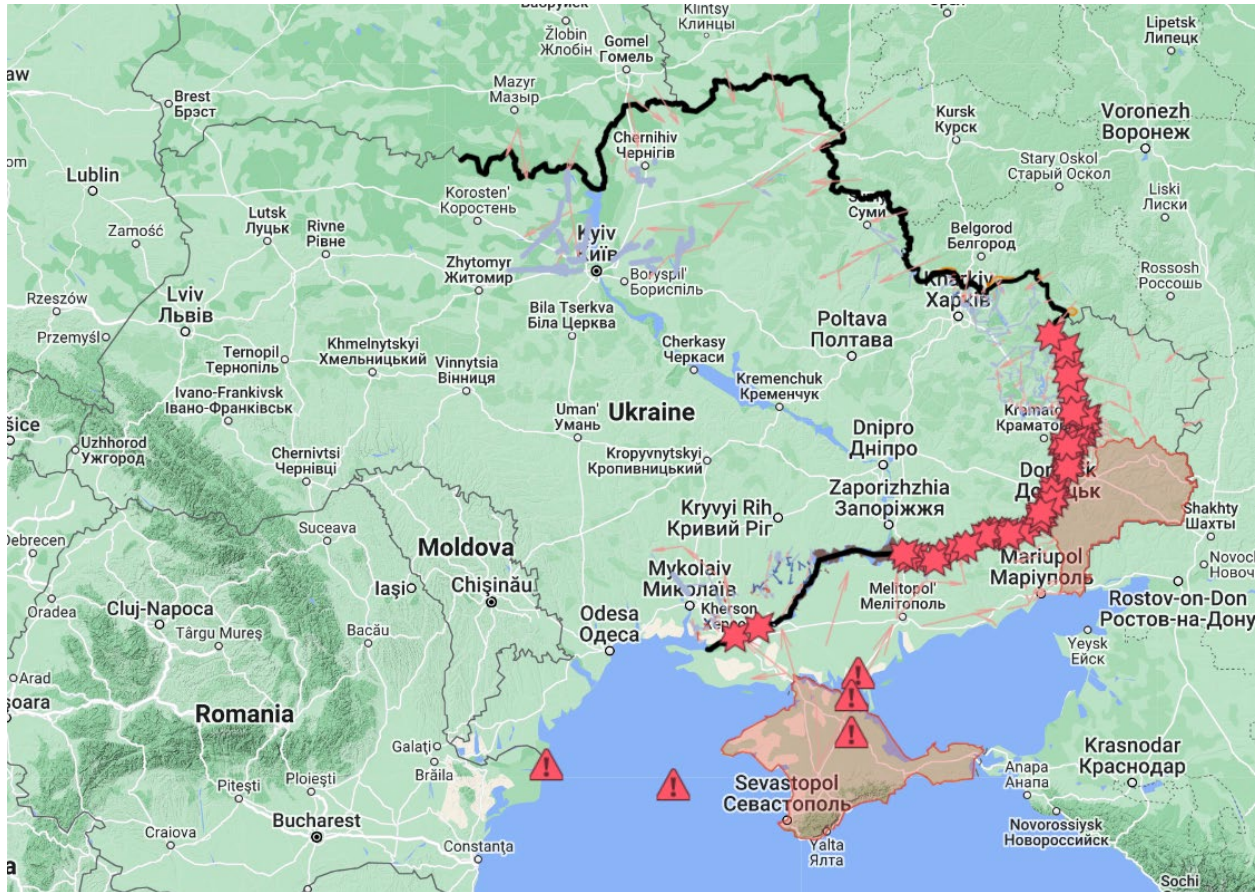
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REPORT – DAY 508

It has been 3,428 days since Russia occupied the Crimea Peninsula on January 27, 2014, and one year and 143 days since Russia expanded its war against Ukraine. The July 17, 2023 report is condensed and combat only. Regular reports return on July 19. The **analytical** podcast and TikTok return on July 20.

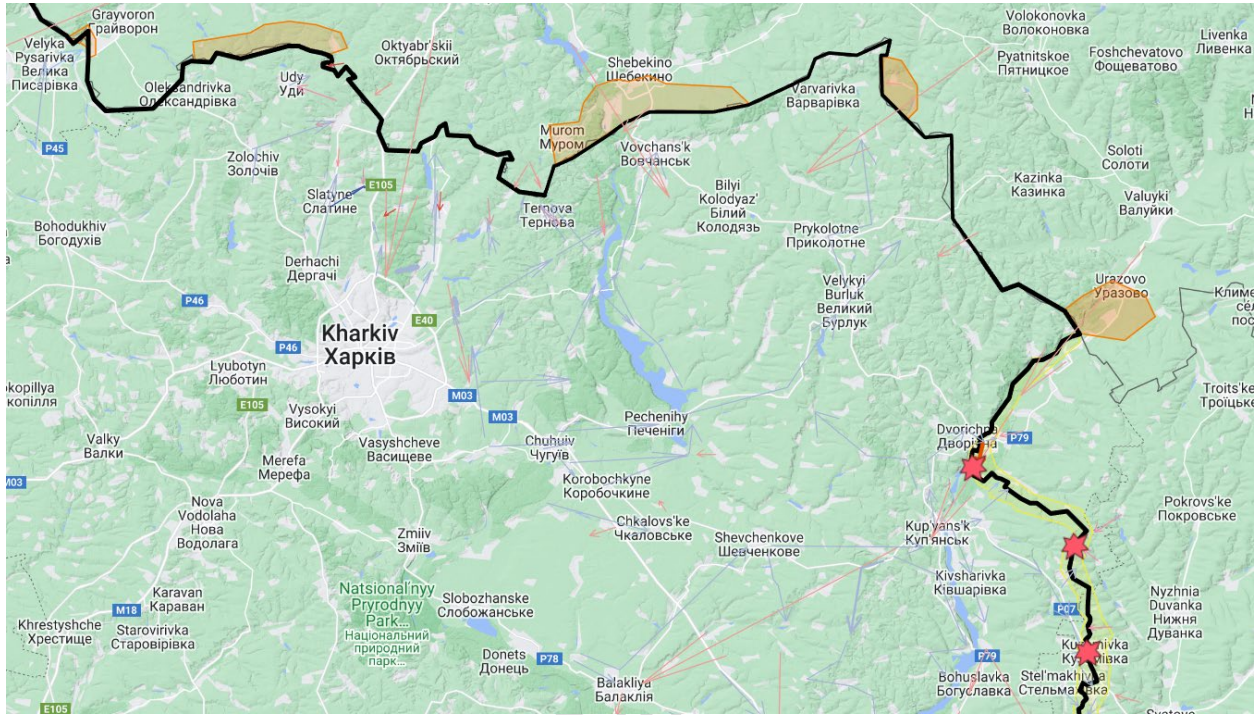
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



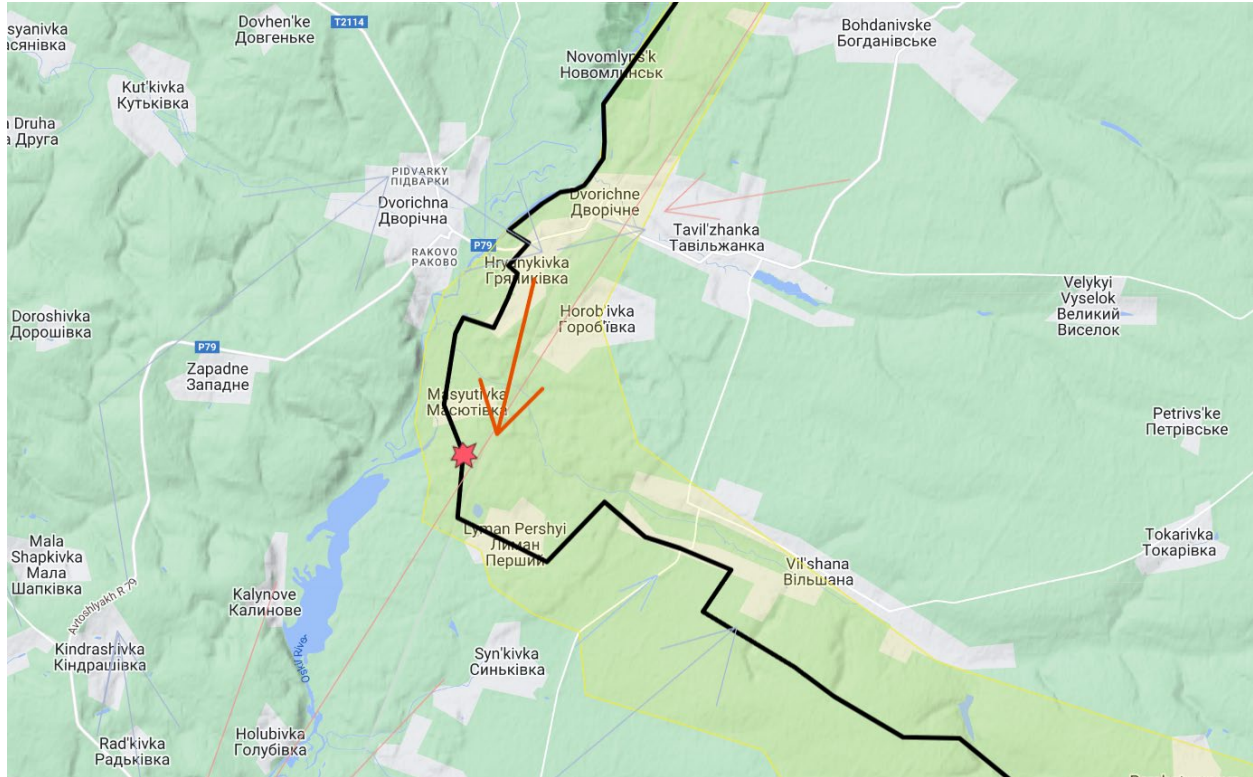
About the maps: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgencies, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at the Saky Naval airbase. Gray circles indicate an area where fighting has ended with no change in the line of conflict. The 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](#)

KHARKIV



Condensed Report



Dvorichna Operational Area

Russian forces continue to attempt to advance south and west from [Masyutivka](#), trying to push Ukrainian forces over the Oskil River. Marginal gains were made in the south direction but in alignment with our current map.¹

Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense described the Russian efforts as spoiling attacks, in alignment with our July 16, 2023 assessment. "Russian efforts in this area are spoiling attacks. "As soon as we seize the operational initiative and

¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

begin to advance [*in other parts of Ukraine – Ed.*], the enemy immediately activates in additional directions to distract and draw our forces there. Actually, the same thing is happening now. The Russians panicked at our advance in the direction of Bakhmut. Because it, although gradual, is daily, and we occupy almost all the dominant heights around the city. Therefore, the situation is predictable. The enemy moved to the diversion in the Kupyansk direction, as he had done more than once but without success. Battles are going on."²

The spokesperson for Operational Command East (OKE), Colonel Serhii Cherevatyi, reported that Russian forces had assembled 100,000 troops, 900 main battle tanks, 555 artillery systems, and 370 multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) in the Kupyansk, Svatove, and Kreminna, areas.³

ASSESSMENT: We're skeptical of the overlapping claims of Russian troop strength across Ukraine, as the math doesn't add up. With 100,000 from Kupyansk to Kreminna, 50,000 in Bakhmut, 150,000 in Zaporizhia, and 120,000 in Crimea, that represents 420,000 Russian soldiers before considering Kherson, Velyka Novosilka, Vuhledar, Marinka, Avdiivka, And Siversk-Lyschansk-Severodonetsk. The

² <https://t.me/annamaliar/943>

³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/17/7411740/>

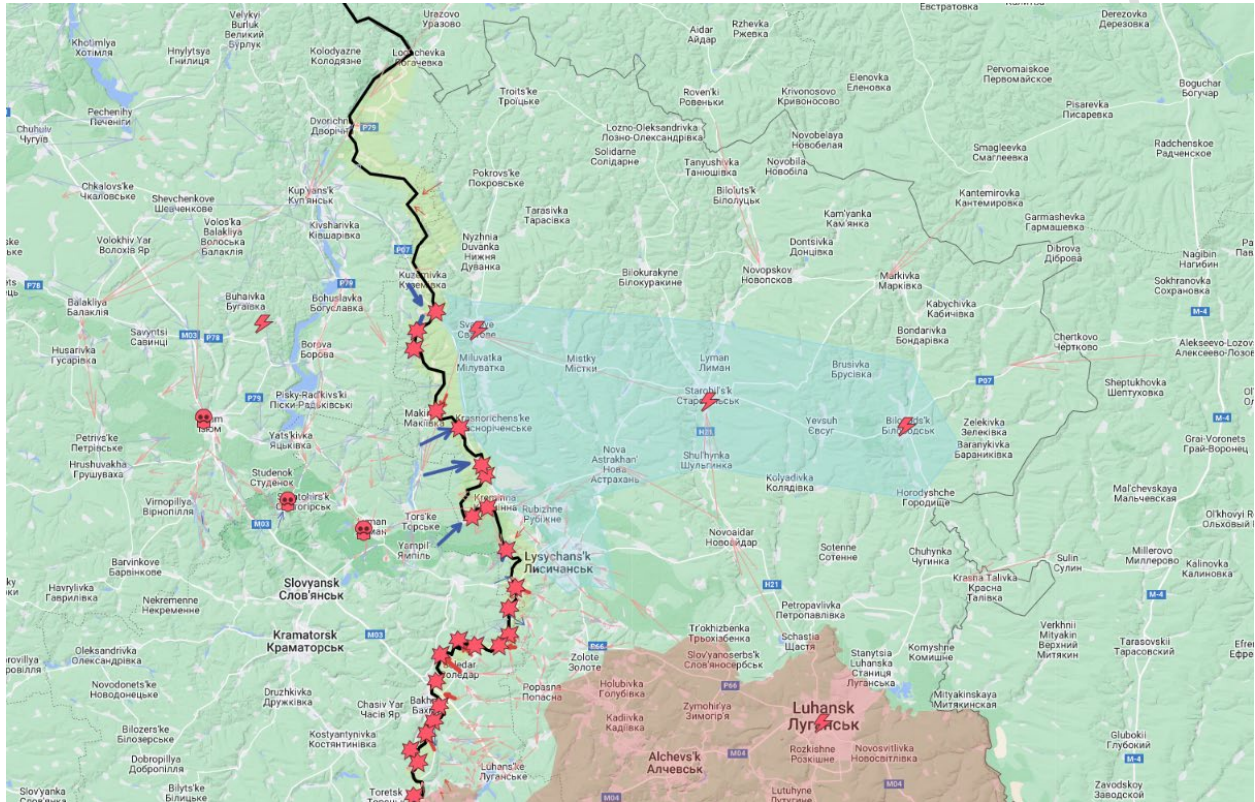


420,000 troops deployed estimate already exceeds the total deployment estimate of 375,000. This is not to dismiss the claim that the Russian Federation Armed Forces have assembled a significant force in the region, but the numbers are exaggerated either in this region or somewhere else in Ukraine.

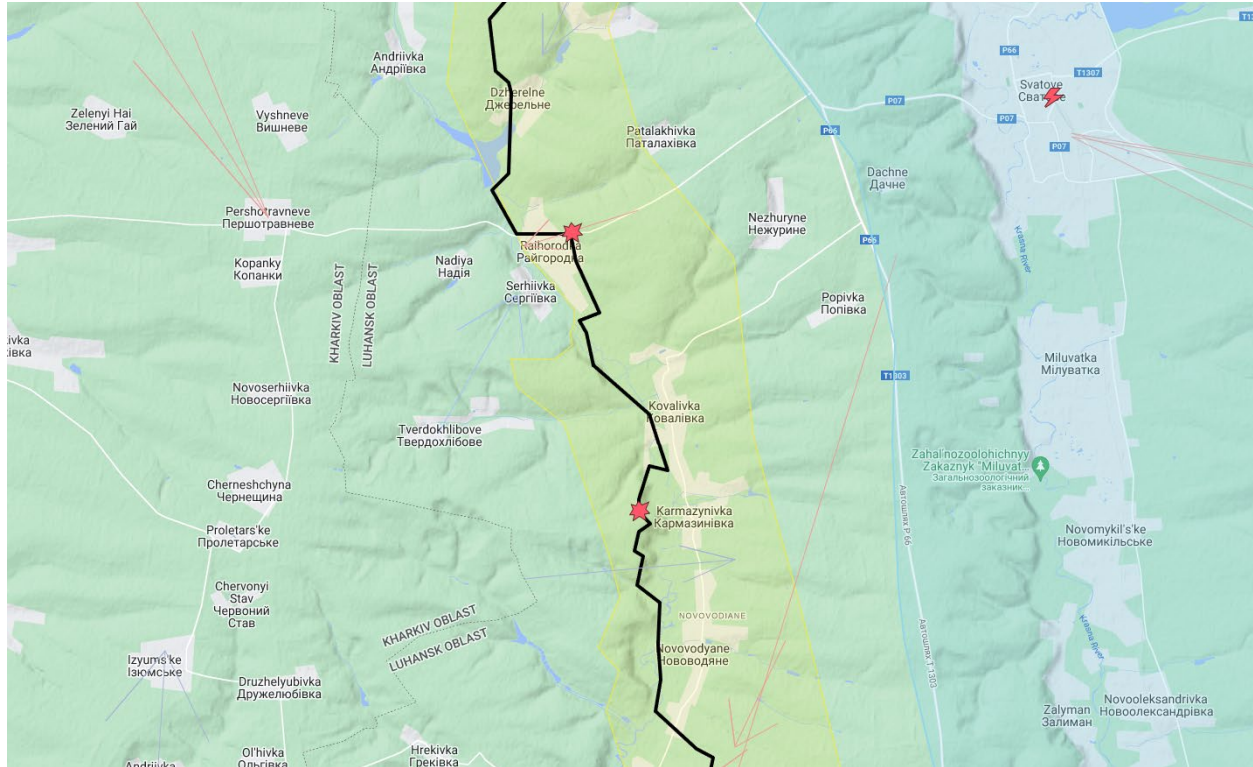
COPYRIGHT 2023, MALCONTENT NEWS

DONBAS REGION

LUHANSK



Condensed Report



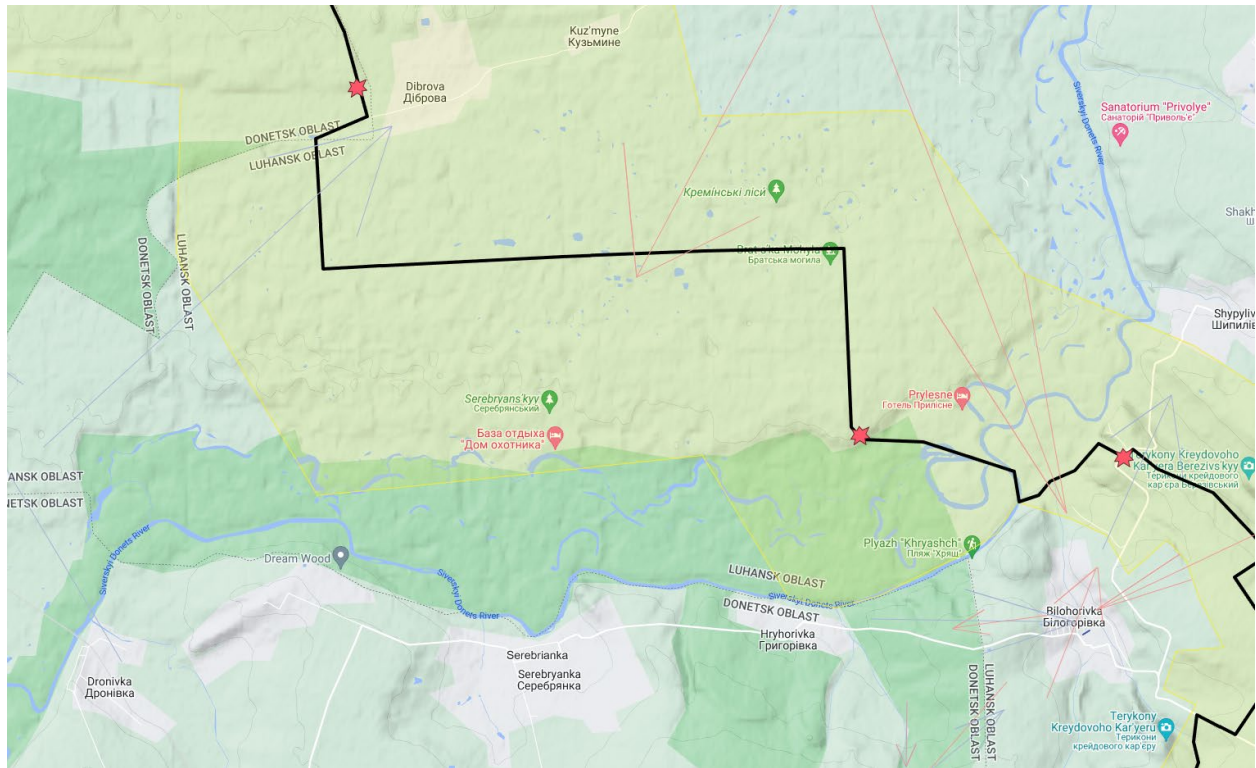
Svatove Operational Area

Russian forces made a successful wet crossing of the Zherebets River and secured two positions previously controlled by Ukraine west of [Karmazynivka](#).^{4 5 6}

⁴ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17132>

⁵ https://t.me/mod_russia/28405 [Russian Federation controlled social media channel]

⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/49803>



Kreminna Operational Area

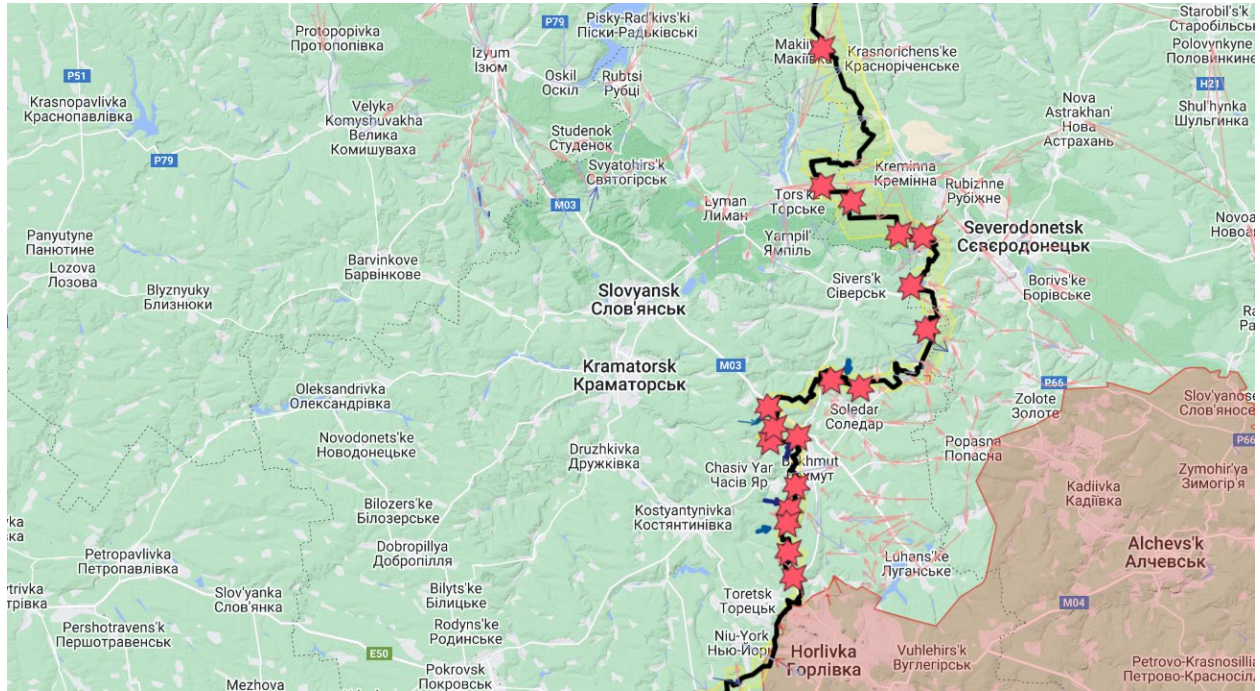
The operational tempo slowed, with fighting mutual fighting reported west of [Dibrova](#) and positional fighting led by artillery continuing in the [Serebryanskyi Woods](#).^{7 8 9}

⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/28405 [Russian Federation controlled social media channel]

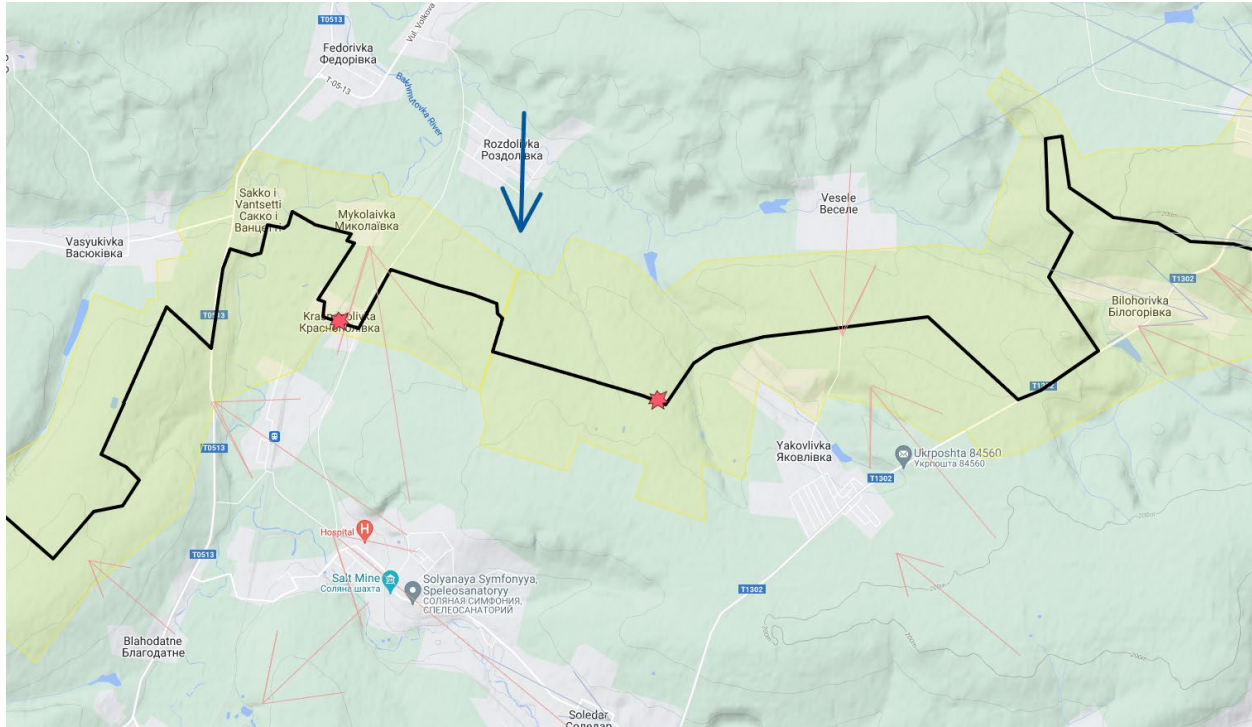
⁹ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17132>

NORTHEAST DONETSK



Condensed Report

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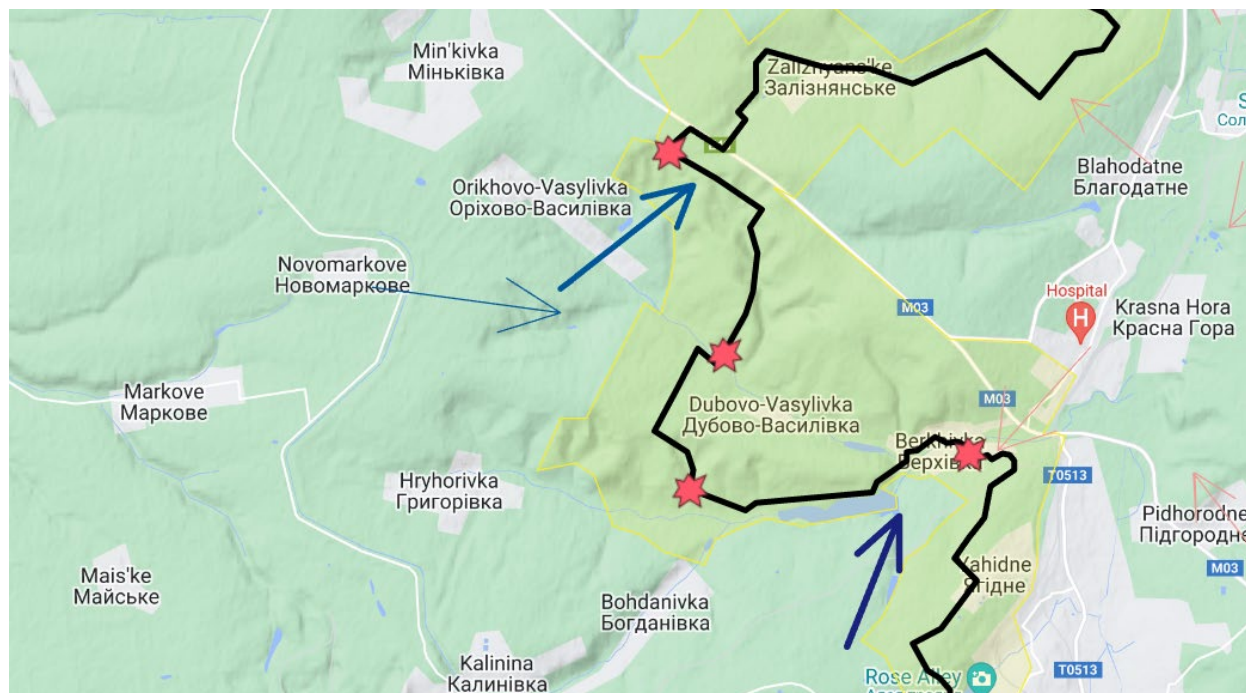


Soledar Operational Area

Russian forces continued attempts to regain lost positions south and east of [Vesele](#) without success. ^{10 11}

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

¹¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>



Bakhmut Operational Area

OKE spokesperson Colonel Cherevatyi said that Russian losses in the Bakhmut area of operation were approaching those of Private Military Company Wagner Group during the peak of their attacks on the city.¹²

Mutual fighting continued near [Orikhovo-Vasylivka](#) on the ridges overlooking the M-03/E-40 Highway.¹³ ¹⁴ Russian forces attempted to advance on [Hryhorivka](#) and [Bohdanivka](#) from Dubovo-Vasylivka without success.¹⁵ ¹⁶

¹² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/17/7411733/>

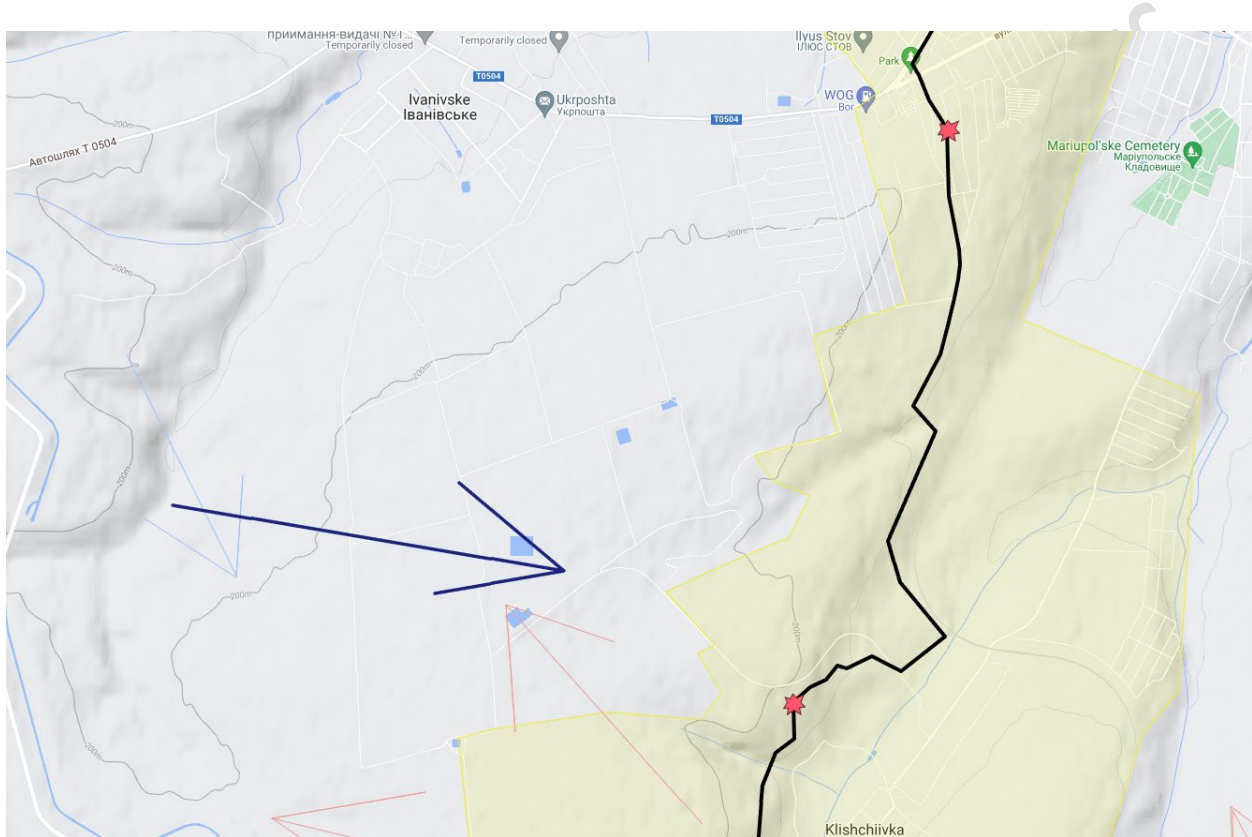
¹³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

¹⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>

¹⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

¹⁶ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – PM Facebook Report](#)

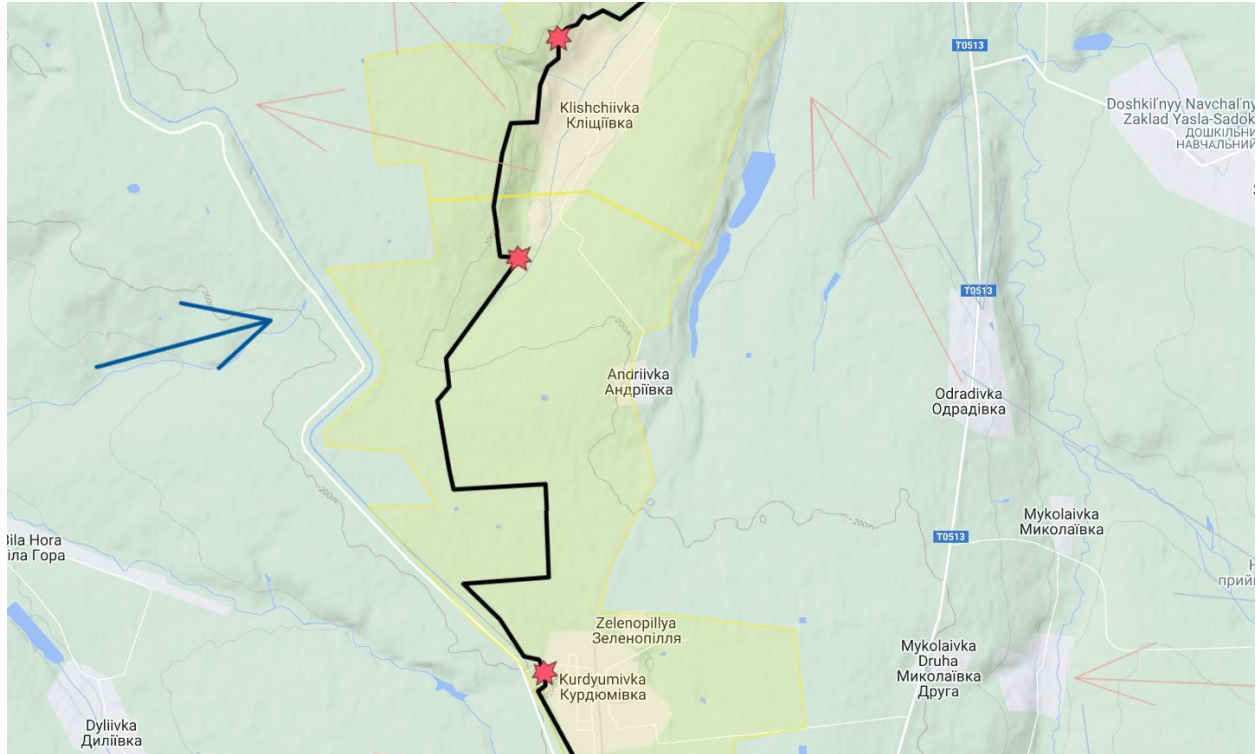
Russian mercenary milblogger Rybar reported continued fighting on the southern edge of [Berkhivka](#).¹⁷



Russian forces made a second attempt to advance in the direction of [Ivanivske](#) from the southern tip of Bakhmut without success.¹⁸ We maintain Ukraine controls 2.5% of the city in three pockets.

¹⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/49803>

¹⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)



Klishchiivka Operational Area

Fighting continued on the western edge of [Klishchiivka](#), with Ukrainian forces establishing military control over additional sections of the stronghold just west of the settlement.^{19 20} Mutual fighting was reported on the western and northwestern edges of [Kurdyumivka](#), with no change in the situation.^{21 22}

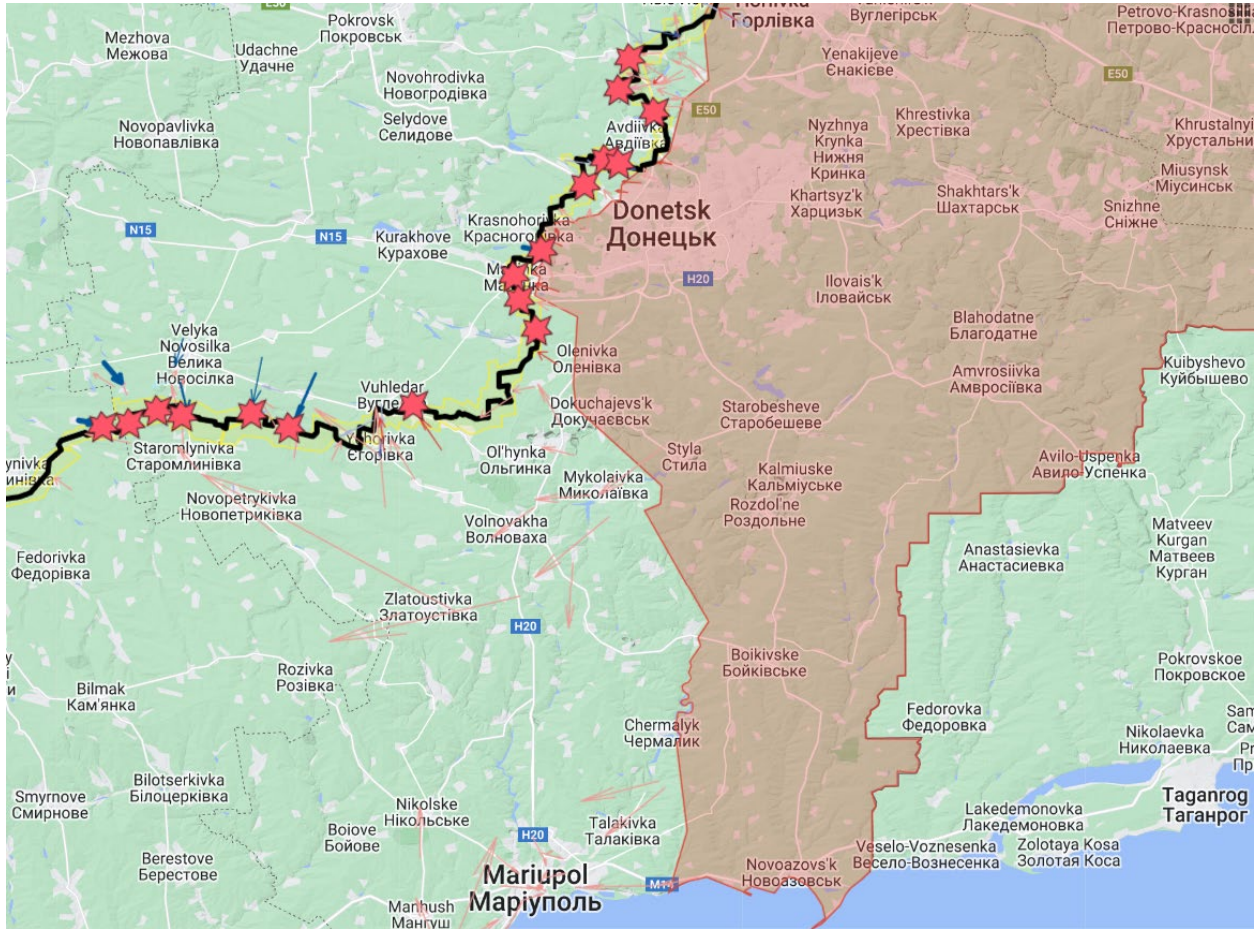
¹⁹ <https://t.me/rybar/49803>

²⁰ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>

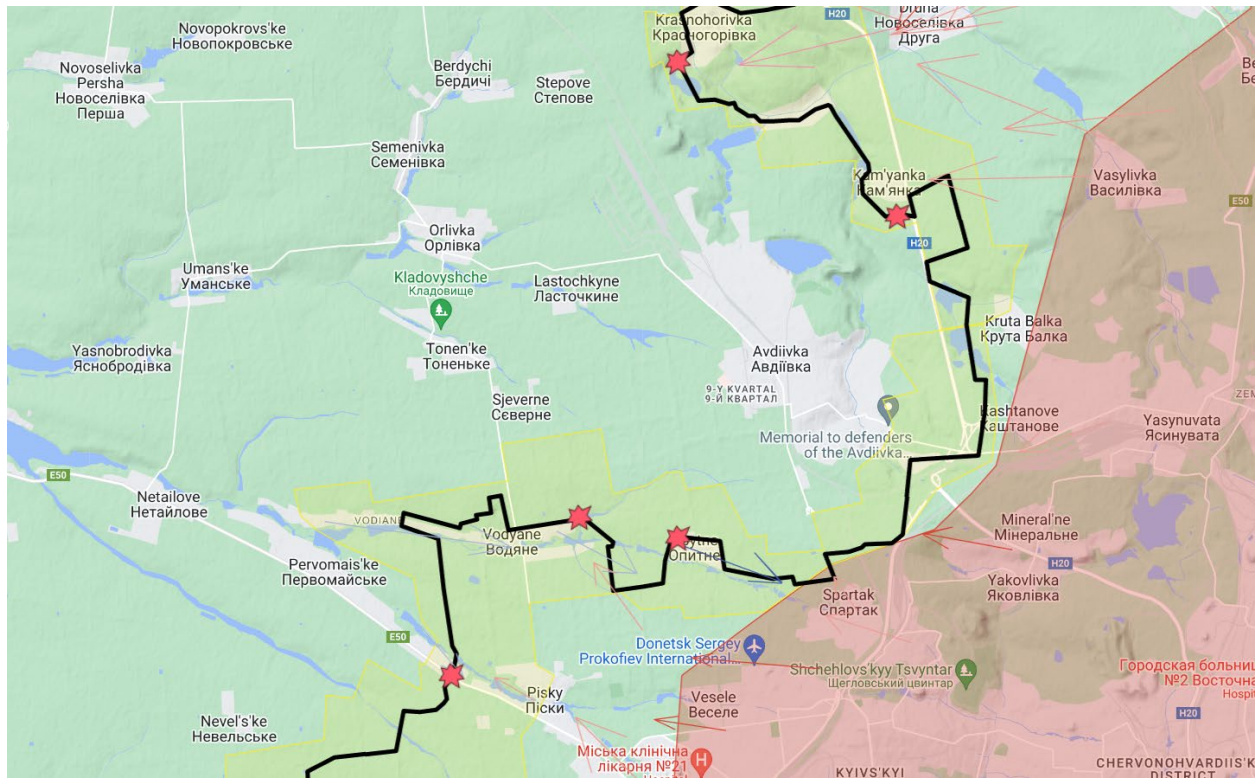
²¹ https://t.me/mod_russia/28405 [Russian Federation controlled social media channel]

²² <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



Condensed Report



Avdiivka Operational Area

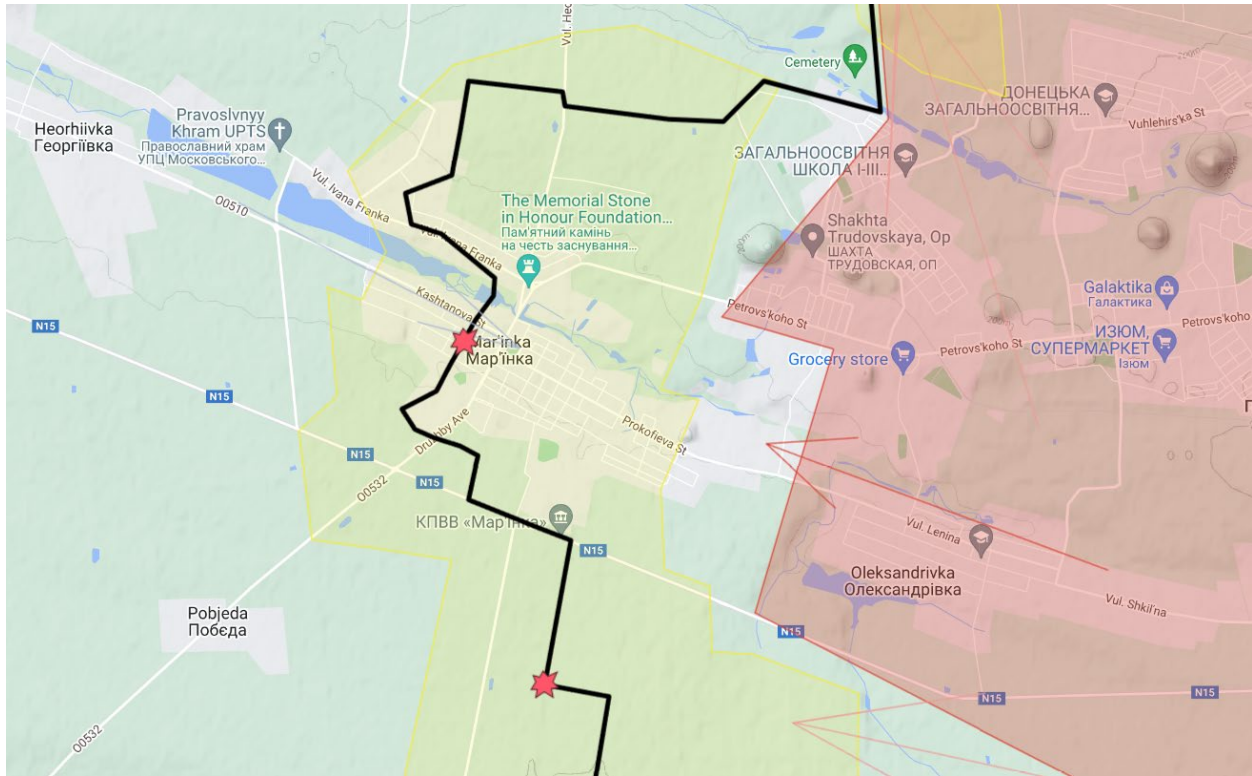
Russian forces attempted to advance on [Avdiivka](#) using head-on attacks that failed, and mutual fighting was reported south of [Pervomaiske](#) with no change in the situation.^{23 24 25 26}

²³ https://t.me/mod_russia/28405 [Russian Federation controlled social media channel]

²⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>

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

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



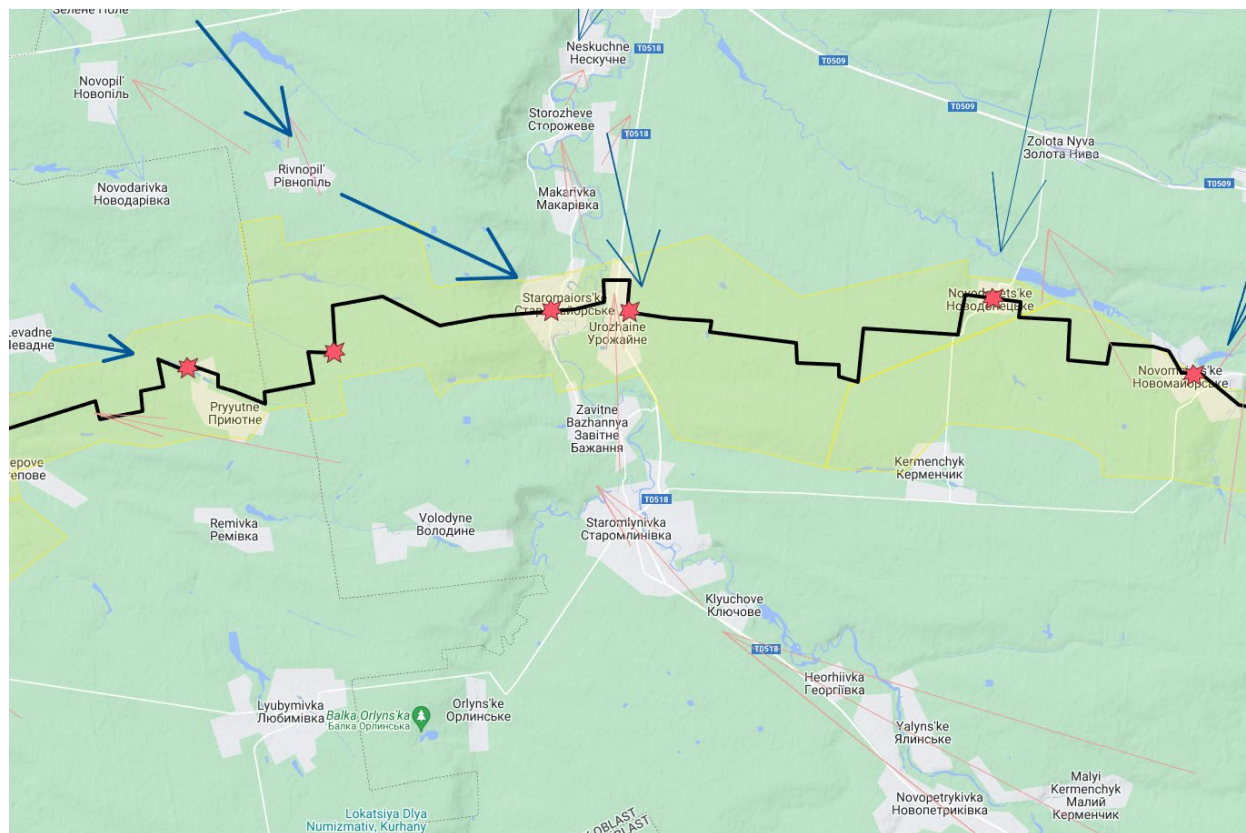
Marinka Operational Area

Mutual positional fighting was reported in the area of [Marinka](#), with no change in the situation.^{27 28 29}

²⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

²⁸ https://t.me/mod_russia/28405 [Russian Federation controlled social media channel]

²⁹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>



Lyubymivka-Staromlynivka Operational Direction

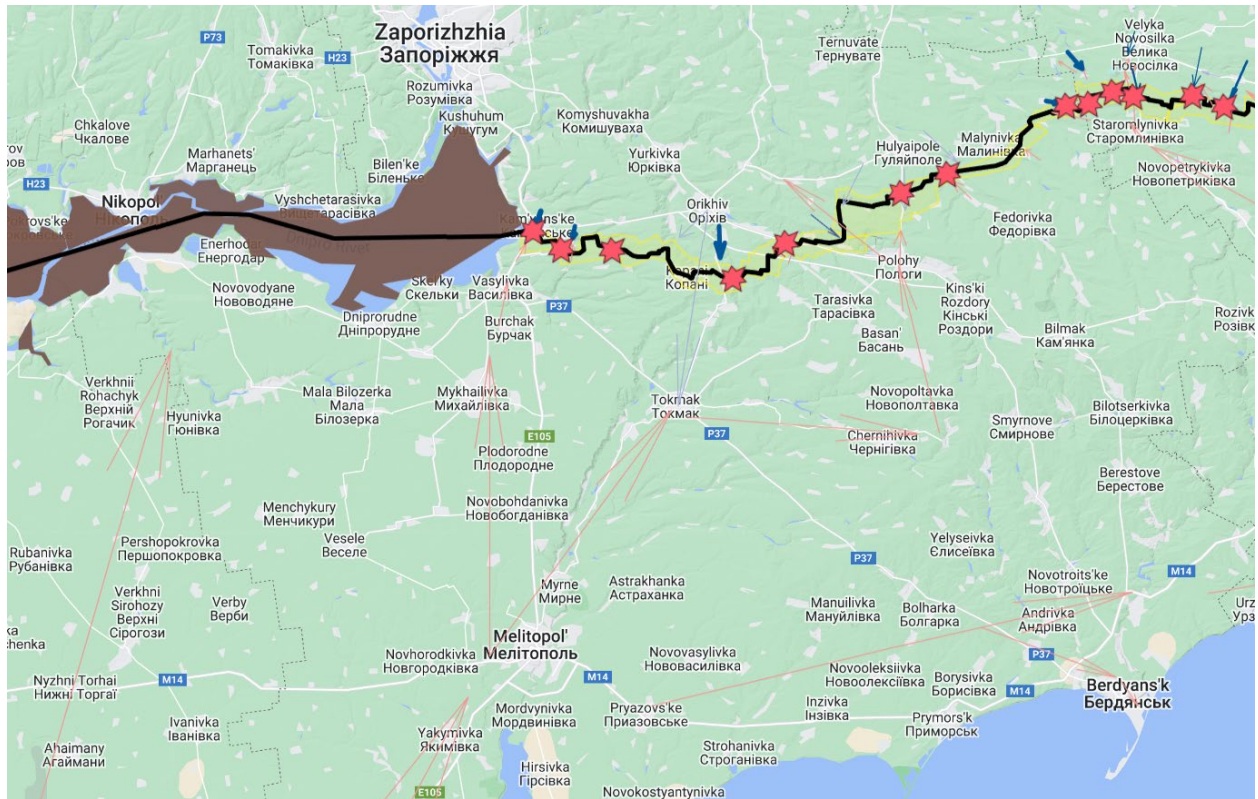
Russian forces attempted to push Ukrainian troops out of the northern part of [Staromaiorske](#), suffered losses, withdrew, and enabled Ukrainian troops to advance to the town center.^{30 31} Russian mercenary milblogger WarGonzo claimed that a Russian counterattack in the area of [Pryyutne](#) resulted in Ukrainian forces being pushed back from the reservoirs on the northern edge of the settlement, but there were no other supporting reports.³²

³⁰ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – AM Facebook Report](#)

³¹ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>

³² <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>

ZAPORIZHIA

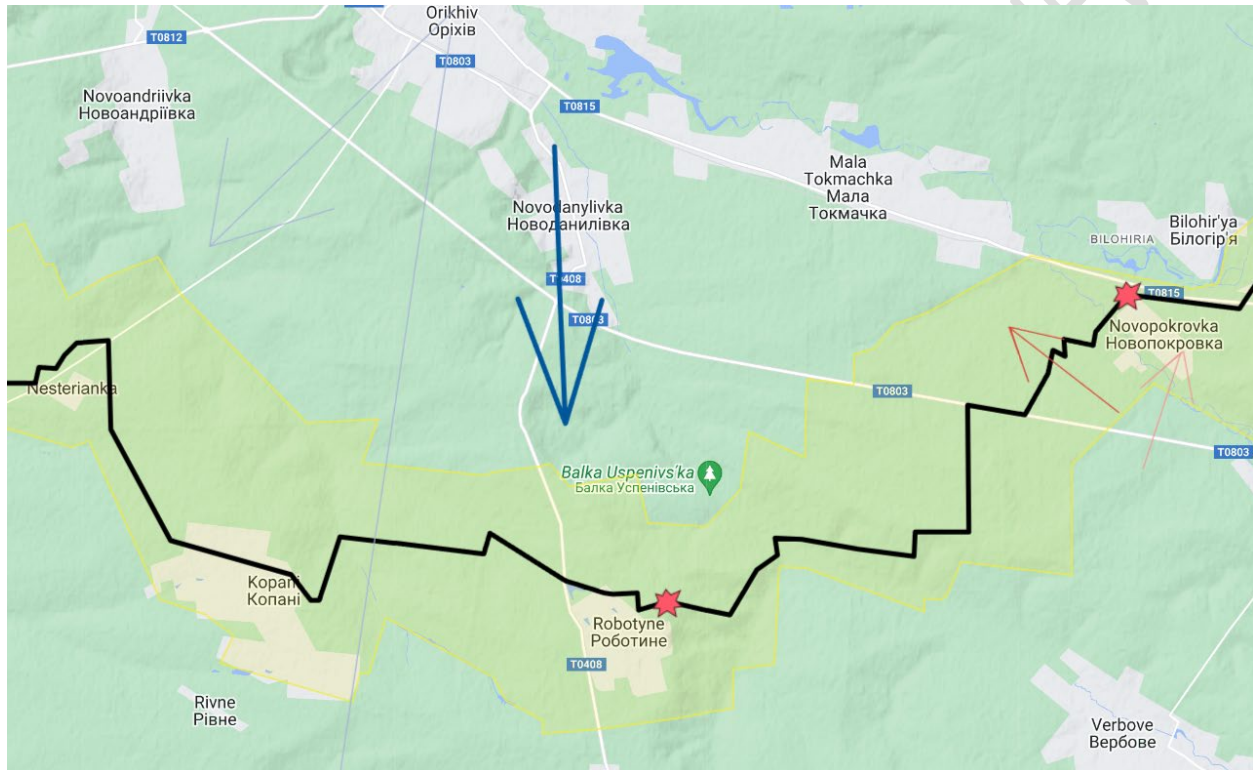


Condensed Report

Free Zaporizhzhia: Ukrainian forces carried out 1,412 fire missions on Russian positions, maintaining a very high rate of fire and effective counterbattery against Russian artillery assets.³³ While we are reluctant to repeat combat casualty claims made by either combatant, Ukraine has been claiming one to three companies of Russian troops

³³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/105898>

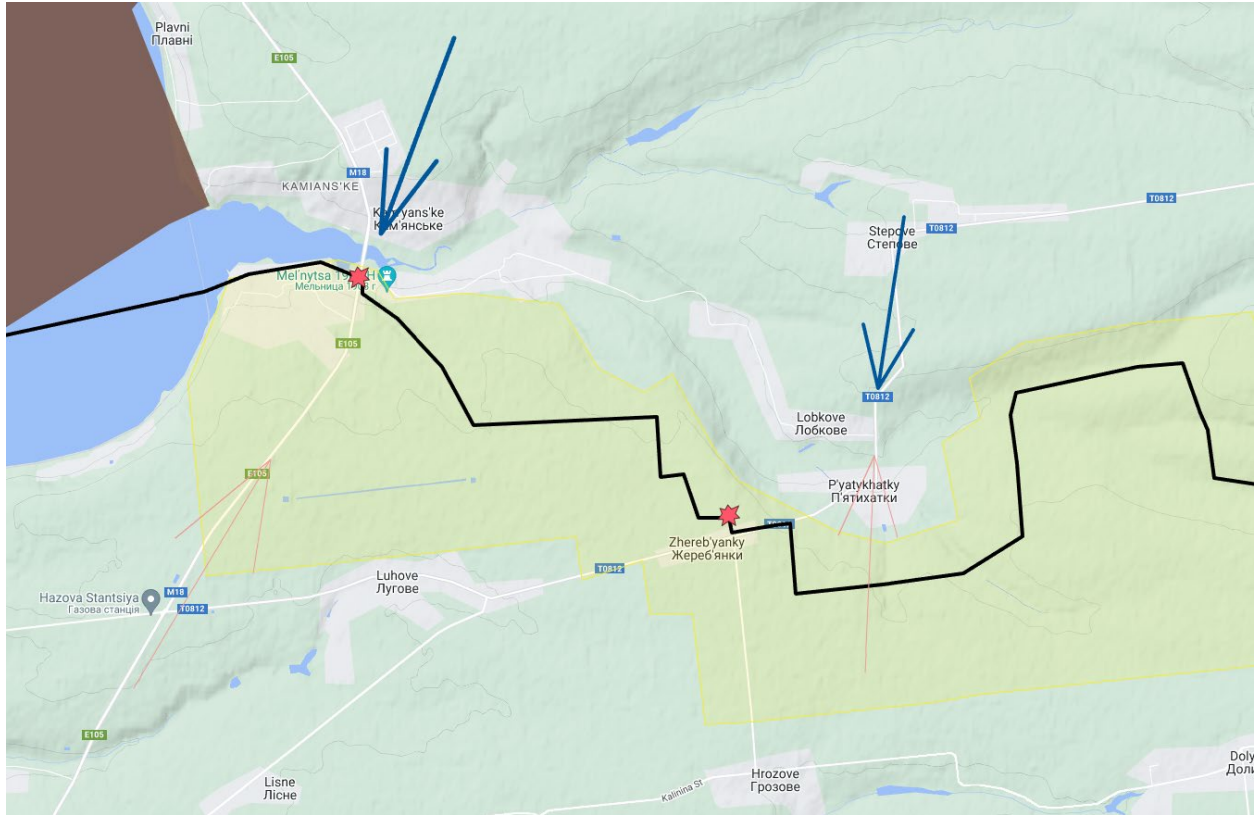
being killed or wounded on a daily basis. Based on Russian unit reports, complaints by commanders, video evidence, and the sustained number of fire missions, we believe these claims, while impossible to verify, have significant weight.



Orikhiv Operational Area

Positional fighting continued around [Robotyne](#) and near [Novopokrovka](#).³⁴

³⁴ <https://t.me/wargonzo/13835>



At [Kamyanske](#), Ukrainian forces crossed the now-drained Dnipro Estuary and took up positions east of the M-18 Highway in the southern part of the settlement.^{35 36}

³⁵ <https://t.me/DeepStateUA/17132>
³⁶ 36

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

No update.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION


Black Sea

There were still ten vessels of the Black Sea Fleet on patrol, including one frigate and one Kilo-class submarine capable of launching up to six Kalibr cruise missiles, after the Admiral Essen fired six missiles at Odesa.

Occupied Crimea

Russian officials admitted that one span of the Crimea (Kerch) Bridge could not be restored after the road deck shifted 78 centimeters. The Russian state media agency TASS reported that the lesser damaged section could be restored by mid-September. The section needing replacement could be completed by mid-November.³⁷

³⁷ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/5443

Satellite images from Maxar showed the extent of the damage and  [revealed that both highway sections were damaged](#) in the blast.³⁸

According to the Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Marat Khusnuli, one set of railroad tracks was also damaged, but claimed rail service had not been impacted. During the day, pictures from the highway section showed repair work was ongoing on the adjacent railroad bridge.³⁹ On July 17, at least one set of tracks supported passenger train traffic. It is worth noting that on October 8, 2022, Russia forced a passenger train on the Kerch Bridge to “prove” the railroad part was undamaged, even though it was severely degraded and took over 200 days to restore partially. Heavy freight traffic is still not allowed across the structure.

Road traffic was moving  [in the direction of Russia on one lane](#) of the lesser damaged bridge despite the support damage, with Russian engineers installing a ramp between the gap in the roadway.⁴⁰

³⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/105903>

³⁹ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36639>

⁴⁰ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36675>

Khusnuli first reported that all the support pillars were in "excellent condition," then later reported that divers confirmed that the underwater section of pillar 145 was undamaged, while the above-water section needed repairs and stabilization.⁴¹

The Main Defense Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) released a statement on Ukraine's actions against the bridge. "We can neither confirm nor deny. The Russian regime is definitely involved in this, and [*Russian President Vladimir – Ed.*] Putin himself gave the order to annex Crimea and invade Ukraine. This is definitely a consequence of these events."⁴²


Russian President Putin held an emergency meeting after the explosion where it was reported he was furious. After the meeting, he publicly stated, "Given that this is the second terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge, I am waiting for concrete proposals to improve the security of this strategically important transport facility."⁴³ Russia has invested over 10 billion roubles in building defensive structures for the Crimean Bridge that have repeatedly failed to work.

⁴¹ <https://t.me/ShrikeNews/9541>

⁴² <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/105910>

⁴³ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/17/7411738/>

Editor's Note: We have a concrete proposal. Go home.

Russian tourists watched as a Russian Airforce (VKS) Su-25 ground attack aircraft  [suffered engine failure and crashed in the Yeisk Estuary](#) of the Sea of Azov.⁴⁴ ⁴⁵ The pilot did not eject and died in the crash. Russian officials claim the aircraft was on a training flight when the engines failed, but analysts pointed out the flight path was consistent with returning from an attack mission over Ukraine.

At the time of publication, Russian officials claimed they shot down 28 Ukrainian drones over Crimea.⁴⁶ Illegitimate leaders of Crimea claimed nine were shot down and 19 were disabled by electronic warfare, while the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed 17 were shot down, and 11 were neutralized by electronic warfare.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ https://t.me/ukrarmed_forces/543

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36603>

⁴⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/18/7411771/>

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/Crimeanwind/36684>

Mykolaiv

Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor Vitaly Kim reported that four Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 kamikaze drones were shot down, while an industrial facility in the city was hit. A large fire was burning at the time of publication, and we had no other information.^{48 49}

Odesa

As retribution for striking the Crimean Bridge, Russian forces launched six Kalibr cruise missiles and 21 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones at Odesa – all missiles and UAVs were shot down, according to OKS. Debris from one missile and the concussion of anti-aircraft missile intercepts caused light to moderate damage to apartment buildings, private homes, and the main port. One pensioner was wounded and admitted to the hospital due to their injuries.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/105916>

⁴⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/18/7411765/>

⁵⁰ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/105920>

WESTERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

Condensed Report

There wasn't any significant activity.

NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UKRAINE

Condensed Report

Sumy

Russian forces conducted 39 fire missions on eight hromadas on the Russian border, firing 252 artillery rounds, mortars, drone-delivered IEDs, and rockets from army aviation helicopters.⁵¹ In the city of Bilopillia, two people were killed and ten wounded, including six hospitalized due to artillery and mortar strikes. A fire station suffered a direct hit, wounding six. Four multi-story apartment buildings were struck in the attack. Multiple homes and outbuildings were damaged or destroyed along the Russian border.

⁵¹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/18/7411761/>

RUSSIAN FRONT

Condensed Report

There wasn't any significant activity.

THEATERWIDE

Russian forces launched 36 Shahed-136 kamikaze drones on Ukraine and six Kalibr cruise missiles, with all six missiles and 31 drones intercepted.⁵²

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov announced that the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) had been “terminated” by Russia, although it has been practically discontinued for almost a month.⁵³ Russia was widely expected to end the BSGI on July 17 and refused to inspect dozens of grain carriers.

⁵² <https://t.me/kpszsus/3372>

⁵³ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/105879>

"I deeply regret the decision by the Russian Federation to terminate the implementation of the Black Sea initiative, including the withdrawal of Russian security guarantees for navigation in the northwestern part of the Black Sea," said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.⁵⁴ "The Black Sea [Grain] Initiative, together with the memoranda of understanding on facilitating exports of Russian food products and fertilizers, have been a lifeline for global food security and the beacon of hope in a troubled world. Ultimately, participation in these agreements is a choice, but struggling people everywhere and developing countries don't have a choice. Hundreds of millions of people face hunger, and consumers are confronting a global cost of living crisis, and they will pay the price."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced that he had "sent official letters to the President of Turkey Erdoğan and U.N. Secretary-General Guterres with a proposal to continue the Black Sea Grain Initiative or its analog in a trilateral format – as it is best. Ukraine, the U.N., and Türkiye can jointly ensure the operation of the food corridor and the inspection of vessels. Africa has the right to stability. Asia has the right to stability. Europe has every right to stability. And therefore, we must all care about security – about protection from Russian madness.

⁵⁴ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/17/7411739/>

Ukrainian food is basic security for four hundred million people."⁵⁵

Ukraine's Defence Intelligence released a video showing Chechen volunteers fighting on the side of the Armed Forces of Ukraine destroying a Russian military truck in Belgorod as part of an ambush. Akhmed Zakayev, the head of the Government of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria in exile, says five Chechen volunteer battalions are now fighting on the side of Ukraine.⁵⁶

Transnistrian officials reported that Oleg Khorzhan, the leader of the Communist Party of the Transnistrian Moldavian Republic, was found dead in a home and had died due to an act of violence.⁵⁷ No other information was available.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION, MOBIKS, AND MIR

Private Military Company Wagner Group closed their base at Molkino in Krasnodar Krai, lowering the colors at the base. Another group of Wagnerites arrived in Belarus, with

⁵⁵ https://t.me/V_Zelenskiy_official/7028

⁵⁶ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2023/07/17/7411674/>

⁵⁷ <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/105864>

multiple intelligence sources and local resistance reporting they were unarmed. According to the fighters at Molmino, operations will completely end on July 30, and the remaining Wagnerites will leave for "new locations." While speculation is rampant that thousands of fighters will somehow integrate themselves into the Belarusian military, it is more likely that Wagner Group will focus on Africa.