

As attacks continued in eastern Ukraine last week, Russian forces enter Kurakhove & approach Pokrovsk



Last week the war in eastern Ukraine continued, as the most recent British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine, above, indicated, with the Russian forces attacking toward the city of Kupiansk in Kharkiv region; toward the city of Chasiv Yar west of Bakhmut, which was taken last year after a lengthy siege; and toward Pokrovsk, a city with a pre-war population of 60,000 about 60 kilometers west of Avdiivka, which the Russians took in February. But as the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported in its daily updates on the war last week, the Russian forces also continued to attack at other points as well – toward Kharkiv from territory they hold north of the city; toward Lyman about 30 kilometers southeast of Izium; toward Kramatorsk about 25 kilometers northwest of Chasiv Yar; toward Toretsk about 20 kilometers south of Chasiv Yar; toward Kurakhove about 25 kilometers west of Donetsk city; toward Vremivka about 30 kilometers southwest of Kurakhove; in the Orikhiv sector southeast of Zaporizhzhia; and toward the area in Kherson region in southern Ukraine where the Ukrainian forces hold territory on the east bank of the Dnipro River. And they continued to attack the Ukrainian forces holding a portion of Russia’s Kursk region just north of Sumy – and did so with some of the 12,000 North Korean soldiers that arrived several weeks ago after the Russia-North Korea defense treaty signed in June took effect.

In its daily updates covering the seven days last week from Sunday through Saturday, the General Staff reported a total of 1,259 Russian attacks at various points along the contact line between the forces. In the previous week, the General Staff reported a total of 1,412 Russian attacks and in the week before a total of 1,196 attacks. And as has been the case for the last several weeks, in the seven days last week the Russian forces

launched many more attacks against the Ukrainian forces defending Pokrovsk (237 attacks) and Kurakhove (327 attacks), which is about 30 kilometers south of Pokrovsk, than against those defending any of the other cities in eastern Ukraine. Those two cities are, and have been for several weeks, the two highest priorities for the Russian forces in eastern Ukraine for obvious reasons. Taking Pokrovsk would open a pathway northward to Kostiantynivka, Kramatorsk, and Sloviansk. And taking Kurakhove would open a pathway westward toward Zaporizhzhia. On Saturday, British Defence Intelligence reported the Russian forces are approximately 6 to 7 kilometers from Pokrovsk itself and are likely fighting within the center of Kurakhove. But Pokrovsk and Kurakhove aren't the only targets of intensive Russian attacks; Vremivka, southeast of Pokrovsk, was attacked 185 times last week. And Lyman, southeast of Iziun, was attacked 94 times last week.

As the war grinds on toward the start of its fourth year on Feb. 24, both sides have suffered immense losses. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense estimates that as of today the total number of Russian "combat losses" – killed or seriously wounded and removed from battle – since Feb. 24, 2022 is 754,590. And yesterday, in a rare statement regarding casualties, President Zelenskyy, in a post on X, said 198,000 Russian soldiers have been killed and 550,000 wounded, while 43,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and 370,000 wounded since the war began.

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