

**As discussions about possible talks took place last week,
the war continued in eastern Ukraine and Kursk**



British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine as of March 21.

As Friday's British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine indicates, last week the Russian forces continued to attack, as they have for the past several months, toward Kupiansk in Kharkiv region, toward the area around Chasiv Yar, west of Bakhmut which they took in 2023 after a prolonged siege, and toward Pokrovsk, west of Avdiivka which they took last February. But as the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported in its daily updates last week, the Russian forces also continued to attack as they had in recent weeks 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 Vremivka about 50 kilometers south of Pokrovsk, in the Orikhiv area southeast of Zaporizhzhia, and in the area in Kherson region in southern Ukraine where the Ukrainian forces hold territory on the east bank of the Dnipro River. They also continued, with the assistance of North Korean troops, to attack the Ukrainian forces that, since their August incursion, have held a portion of Russia's Kursk region just north of Sumy.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported a total of 1,017 Russian attacks at various points along the contact line between the forces in the seven days last week from Sunday, March 16, through Saturday, March 22. In the previous seven days, the Russian forces had conducted 1,131 attacks, and in the week before that they had conducted 864 attacks. As in previous weeks, the largest number of Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine last week were directed against the Ukrainian forces defending

Pokrovsk, an important transit hub on the highway that links Donetsk city with Dnipro and that, if taken, would also open a pathway northward for the Russian forces toward Kostyantynivka, Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. Over the seven days last week, the Russian forces conducted a total of 285 attacks against the forces defending Pokrovsk compared with 297 in the previous week. And in the first two days of this week, the Russian forces conducted a total of 305 attacks against the Ukrainian forces, of which 104 were against the forces defending Pokrovsk.

But while Pokrovsk and its surrounding area was, judging by the number of attacks, clearly the highest priority for the Russian forces in eastern Ukraine last week, it wasn't the only target of repeated attacks; the Russian forces last week also conducted 151 attacks against the forces defending Toretsk, compared with 143 attacks in the previous week, and 112 attacks against the forces defending Lyman, compared with 124 attacks in the previous week. And assisted by North Korean troops, the Russian forces conducted 141 attacks last week against the Ukrainian forces which, since last August's incursion, have held a portion of Russia's Kursk region northeast of Sumy, compared with 149 attacks in the previous week.

For the past week, the attention of the world has been focused, quite understandably, on the talks between the U.S., Russia, and Ukraine that began this week in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. But in the meantime, the war continued last week in eastern Ukraine and the Kursk region of Russia. And after the talks, which are focused among other things on a ceasefire in regard to maritime shipping in the Black Sea, conclude, the war will undoubtedly continue to go on in eastern Ukraine and Kursk.

David R. Cameron
March 25, 2025