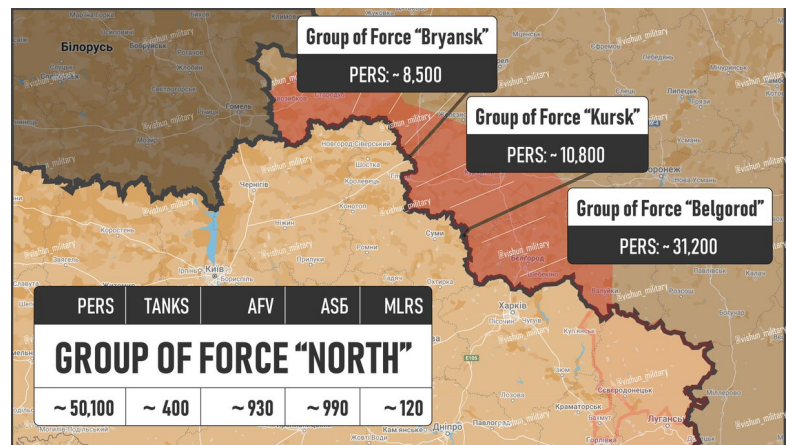


Kharkov Battles: On the Fall of Ryzhivka

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1. On Monday, June 10th, 2024, the pro-Russian milbloggers announced the fall of Ryzhivka in Arabic in posts on Twitter.
2. Ryzhivka is the first city in the Sumy side of Russia's three prong attack on northern Ukraine in the Kharkiv offensive Russian armed forces initiated at midnight on May 9th, 2024, victory day.
3. The pro-Russian milblogger, @id7p_, for instance published a series of tweets, indicating that Russian armed forces occupy the village. The Tweet stated: "الجيش الروسي يفتتح جبهة جديدة. الجيش الروسي يسيطر على كامل مستوطنة ريزيفكا الواقع في منطقة "سومي" وبذلك تكون اول مستوطنة يسيطر عليها الجيش الروسي في منطقة جديدة بعد مدة زمنية طويلة. اليوم ولأول مرة منذ عامين الجيش الروسي يعاود التقدم في منطقة سومي، حيث تمكن الجنود الروس من السيطرة على مستوطنة ريزيفكا الحدودية مع منطقة كورسك الروسية وذلك بالتزامن مع إنطلاق عاصفة الشمال الروسية شمال [1]. منطقة خركيف."
4. French military bloggers, commenting on the latest events in the Kharkiv offensive, confirmed the Russian advances. [2] The French milblogger, @clement_molin, for instance, stated: "Voice one vidéo du bombardment puts de l'occupation du village de Ryzhivka dans l'oblast de Soumy à l'est de l'Ukraine." It further stated: "Après les incursions dans l'oblast de Kharkiv, c'est au tour de Soucy, en face de Tetkino, un village Russe qui avait subi plusieurs incursions Ukrainiennes."
5. "Cette incursions des hommes de Kadyrov dans l'oblast de Soucy reste néanmoins moins importantes que celles de Kharkiv. Sur place, on compterait 3 brigade mécanisées, ce qui paraît important quand on connaît l'importance et la force de celles-ci."
6. The video both the pro-Russian Arabic language milblogger as well as the French NATO aligned blogger provided is the same. It is a video published with a watermark in the upper left hand corning denoting @kadyrov_95. The video starts with a blast from a large Russian mortar lobbing a round into the roof of a house in the Sumy region. The video displays mortars, tanks, artillery, FPV drones striking positions in

Ryzhivka. The video concludes with Russia's Akhmat forces raising a flag in a bibliotheca called *Рижівська Сільська Библиотека*. The sign above the bibliotheca is a sign for the village's town hall, called *Рижівська Сільська Рада*.

7. Akhmat's decision to focus on artillery is likely a result of the current developments within the overall war, especially in terms of differentiated advantages. During the fall of Avdiivka, for instance, Russia utilized glide bombs to destroy Ukrainian defenses, which became one of the major contributing factors to its seizure of the city. In the immediate after of the city's fall, NATO exerted a concerted effort to improve Ukraine's ability to disrupt the flight path of these glide bombs with electronic warfare. A Russian military blogger aligned with the Russian armed forces, who writes with openly racist profanities, posted a snippet to his Telegram account recently, confirming these suspicions. It stated the following: "Тоже новость так себе. Хохлы имели рабочую УМПК ещё до войны. Почему они не пустили ее в серию я не знаю. Почему решили делать

их сегодня тоже не очень понимаю, ибо уже готовых планирующих бомб им не насыпают горы. Тем паче время УМПК потихоньку уходит. РЭБ с обеих сторон становится всё больше. Работает он и на свои и на чужие спутниковые системы наведения в следствии чего точность УМПК ухудшаться до критических значений и будет ухудшаться и дальше. Перспектива за более совершенными инерциальными навигационными системами и системами коррекции которым нельзя поставить помехи." [3]

8. It would be worthwhile to investigate fully the differentiated advantages the two sides sought to pursue in regards to glide bombs, since NATO sought to outfit one of its missile types with a guidance system. Shortly after experiments with the guidance system occurred, NATO aligned figures outside of the mainstream media announced their withdrawal from the battlefield on the strength of Russia's electronic warfare. In the mainstream media, no press reports appear to have detailed the event's outcome.

9. In contrast to the fall of Avdiivka, the protracted struggle over Chasiv Yar, above Su-25 rooks military bloggers filmed dropping glide bombs, is likely a result of the degraded capability of the guidance systems. It could be that the decision to withhold closed air support for Akhmat's advance on the Sumy side of the Kharkiv offensive is a result of the Russian high command's awareness that the glide bombs are not as effective now as they were during the battle for Avdiivka, which fell on February 17th, 2024.[4]

10. It could be, however, that conditions set for closed air support sought to eliminate the most readily available sources of electricity. If so, then the situation in Sumy have reached the condition. An Arabic language military bloggers noted that Ukraine's electricity, which comes from a severely diminished electrical grid Russia's air force has bombed repeatedly throughout the country, stopped in the Sumy region. The pro-Russian Arabic language milblogger, @hosamalkrbash, stated: "أنقطاع الكهرباء في أحاء كبيرة من سومي، هناك

نشاط كبير للطيران الحربي كما أكدت مصادر محلية، يبدو أن هناك هجوم روسي على المناطق الحدودية." [5]

The Significance of the Fall of Ryzhivka

11. Ryzhivka, as the third side in the three prong Kharkiv offensive, is significant. Ryzhivka is 250 kilometers from the capital, Kyiv, 180 kilometers from the Kyiv region, 46 kilometers from the Sumy city. It is the closest front in Russia's full-scaled invasion.

12. One of the consequences of the fall of Ryzhivka is that Ukraine's armed forces must avoid, especially in regards to the Sumy region or its settlements, is a situation in which Russia's armed forces come within artillery range of Kyiv. Since Ryzhivka is the front closest to Kyiv, Ukraine's military high command cannot allow for advances in the Sumy region or its settlements that might ultimately lead to a situation in which Kyiv comes under the range of Russia's artillery. The immediate result is that Ukraine's already expanded manpower is expected to be

- expanded further after Ukraine's military high command rushes troops from the south to the north to shore up its defenses in the north to prevent Russia from advancing any deeper into the Sumy region.
13. With the fall of Chasiv War approaching in the south-eastern Donetsk, the Russian armed forces' decision to launch the Kharkiv offensive as a shaping operation to compel Ukraine's defenses from the south to the north is reaching success. The Russian armed forces staggered the shaping operation into several waves.
 14. The first wave came the assault on Liptsi and Vovchansk, both of which caused a significant number of Ukrainian battalions, 60, if the most recent count is to be trusted, to transfer from the south to the north. The massive transfer of Ukrainian manpower from the south to the north necessarily weakened Ukraine's ability to defend its existing lines in the eastern Donetsk region. Ukraine's weakened defenses in eastern Donetsk have allowed the Russian armed forces to advance steadily, albeit not without heavy losses in manpower or material, westward, securing the fall of multiple settlements, as well as villages.
 15. It is widely expected that Russian armed forces seek to consolidate their forces at the Dnipro and Dnepropetrovsk before launching the third wave of the Kharkiv offensive, the assault to come within artillery range of Kyiv.
 16. If the Russian armed forces are unable to leverage the full length of the southern portion of the Dnipro as a natural land barrier against incursions, invasions, or assaults, then the Russians may not be able to coalesce the bulk of their forces for a battle on Kharkiv.
 17. In the coming days, the fate of Chasiv Yar, through whose micro district kanal the Russian armed forces have recently advanced, may provide additional information about Russia's coalescence on the Dnipro.
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[1] - [@id7p_ : منذ عامين كان الجيش الروسي يسيطر على الكثير من المستوطنات والمدن في منطقة سومي ولكن مع معاهدات الانسحابات ولا سيما {معاهدة إسطنبول} التي وقعت عليها روسيا وأوكرانيا والتي تتضمن انسحاب الجيش الأوكراني من كييف ومنطقة شمال اوكرانيا ولا سيما منطقة سومي والتي بامقابل تجعل اوكرانيا دولة محايدة ولا تنضم إلى الناتو، إلا ان اوكرانيا خانت العهد والميثاق والان لم هناك محادثات سلام او عهد او موثيق. June 10th, 2024]

[2] - [@clement_molin, “Guerre en #Ukraine, Début des hostilités offensives Russes dans l’oblast de Soucy, toujours pas d’attaque générale, point sur les fortifications, on revient sur les dernières semaines.” June 10th, 2024]

[3] — [t.me/fighter_bomber “Хохлы имели рабочую УМПК ещё до войны.” June 10th, 2024]

[4] — [“Kharkov Battles: On the Fall of Avdiivka,” *LeftOpposition*, February 17th, 2024]

[5] — [@hosamalkrbash: “أنقطاع الكهرباء في أجااء كبيرة من سومي، هناك نشاط كبير للطيران الحربي كما أكدت مصادر محلية، يبدو أن هناك هجوم روسي على المناطق الحدودية.” June 10th, 2024]