



Kharkov Battles: The Duel

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РИА Новости Сегодня

Шойгу: ВС России в январе уничтожили более трех тысяч единиц техники ВСУ

«Потери ВСУ за прошедший месяц превысили 23 тысячи человек убитыми и ранеными», - отметил Шойгу. ТК Звезда

"В том числе немецкие танки Leopard, американские БМП Bradley, пусковые установки Patriot и HIMARS", - сказал Шойгу. Интерфакс

Шойгу заявил, что российские военные сохраняют стратегическую инициативу в зоне СВО. "После провала контрнаступления противника Вооруженные силы России сохраняют стратегическую инициативу на всей линии боевого соприкосновения", - сказал Шойгу. Интерфакс - Россия

"В ходе активных действий на купянском, краснолиманском и донецком направлениях освобождены населенные пункты Веселое, Крахмальное, Табаевка", - заявил Шойгу. Интерфакс



1. The *Ostflanke*, a three hundred year old front where the army of Charles the XII met the outer limits of Swedish expansion, the great Russian general Suvorov earned his place in history, Napoleon began the beginning of his demise, the Bolsheviks reincorporated the lost remnants of the Romanov dynasty into a historic federation, the Nazis witnessed the demise of its lethal Panzer divisions, is one of the flashpoints in Western military history. The *Ostflanke* has now become the site of extraordinary military conflict in the 21st century. The military might of great powers is erupting across its fields.
2. U.S.-led NATO's Ukrainian proxy force continues to fight the legacy of the Soviet Union from Russia over the Ostflanke in one of the greatest clashes in the history of the 21st century, if not the past three hundreds of its history.

The Duel

3. In one of the most recent events, an Ukrainian operated M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle squared off against a Russian BTR-82 Armored

Personnel Carrier near Sokol, yet the site of the most significant fighting in the Donbas, against the backdrop of Russia's westward advance in eastern Donetsk. The duel, although not significant in itself as an individual event, has risen in significance due primarily to varied reporting.

4. The event itself is captured on a video recorded by Ukraine's 47th Mechanized Brigade, a continuously reconstituting brigade whose performance in the Avdiivka direction during the battle of Berdyachi resulted in the the loss of the first Abrams tank. The 47th Mechanized Brigade, whose latest commander is the third commander, is responsible for the loss of all subsequent Abrams on the eastern front. A NATO trained brigade, the 47th Mechanized Brigade published its video on June 7th, 2024.
5. The video begins with a Russian BTR-82A heading down a road towards a Ukrainian settlement. In the opposite direction, a Ukrainian Bradley M2A2 begins to fire from its 25 millimeter 'Bushmaster' cannon at close range. These shots strike the

approaching Russian BTR-82A, which is returning fire with its 30 millimeter dual feed automatic cannon, which can fire armor piercing AP-T projectiles, high-explosive fragmentation-incendiary (HEF-1) or high-explosive-tracer (HE-T) ammunition. [1]

6. The BTR-82A, whose armored hull is composed of “Kevlar laminated synthetic material, veers off the road, passing the Bradley. One of the Russian soldiers, who presumably could not fit in the vehicle’s seven man hull, jumps off. The BTR-82A begins to smoke heavily, veering onto the road again until finally stopping behind a house in the village along the road, a short distance from the fleeing Bradley. The remaining Russian soldiers slide off.
7. Ukrainian milbloggers celebrated the confrontation. In an embedded tweet by an Estonian pro-Ukrainian blogger, @wartranslated, the original tweet contains a description stating the following: “US-supplied M2A2 Bradley of the Ukrainian 47th Mechanized Brigade destroys Russian BTR-82A in super close range

with its 25mm Bushmaster.” These celebrations, however, were short lived. It is clearly visible from the 47th Mechanized Brigade’s footage that the Bradley, although causing severe damage, did not ‘destroy’ the Russian BTR-82A.

Journalism

8. The Russian press presented the event as a duel.[2], [3], [4], [5] During its reporting, the Russian press emphasized how the two military vehicles approached each other at full speed. It described how the Russian crew opened fire from the BTR-82A’s 30 millimeter gun. In these articles, the Russian presents the story with an open end.
9. The Russian reporting on the Ministry of Defense, however, portrayed the outcome of the encounter in a story detailing how the 47th Mechanized Brigade lost not only the Bradley M2A2 but also an Abrams, one of the many Abrams tanks the brigade has lost in the Avdiivka direction.[6], [7], [8]. Two articles detail how the Bradley, however, exploded after a Russian FPV drone struck one of its weaknesses.[9], [10]

The fate of the crew is covered in other articles. [11], [12], [13], [14], [15]

Counting Your Chickens before Your Eggs Hatch

10. It appears that David Axe may have counted his chickens before his eggs hatched, although that might not be appropriate.[16] David Axe's article, published on June 9th, 2024, came two days after an article by the *New York Times*, which presented an alternative analysis of the June 7th clash. Since the chicken came before the egg, Axe's reporting glossed over the *New York Time's* own account.
11. In an article that shows the depth of Russia's influence on the modern understanding of the Ukraine war, the *New York Times* adopts the language Russia uses to describes its front, calling the front a 'direction.' "Overnight Wednesday to Thursday, the Russian Army made another small advance in [the Avdiivka] direction near the village of Sokol, according to Ukrainian soldiers."
12. The *Times* explains: "In that engagement, the Russians attack

the Ukrainian rearguard near Sokol in an armored personnel carrier. Troops in Ukraine's 47th Brigade tried to counterattack with an American provided Bradley infantry fighting vehicle, according to a sergeant in the brigade who asked to be identified by his call sign, Sapsan."

13. Up until that point, Axe's story corresponds to what the *New York Times* reported. As the times continues, however, Axe's story begins to differ. The *Times* continues: "But the Bradley's gun malfunctioned, and the Russians dismounted and attacked a position." In Axe's story he describes how "[there] were clear winners and losers in this deadly game," presenting the Bradley as the winner. He describes the BTR-82A as follows: "The three-person BTR-82 rolled away damaged and smoking, dead and injured infantry spilling from its hull."
14. What is even more interesting about Axe's departure from the narrative the article in the *Times* is its reliance upon sources within the 47th Mechanized Brigade's own command structure. The 47th Mechanized

- Brigade's sergeant elaborates:
"They are always doing this, poking our positions, and willing to destroy an armored personnel carrier and personnel to do so," [the sergeant] said, referring to Russian losses.
15. "It was an example," [the sergeant] continues, "of Russia's tactic of staging 'probing' attacks to find weaknesses. Usually such attacks were a 'one-way ticket for the soldiers' involved he said. But, he added, they gave the Russians intelligence to prepare for attacks by larger forces.[17]
 16. Sapsan's description of Russian probing relates to earlier events in the Ukraine war. It appears as though the Russians, who are often described as militarily inferior, have begun to adopt the psychological warfare Ukrainian special forces sought to exploit prior to the launch of its 'Spring' counteroffensive in 2023.
 17. In an article entitled, "Ukraine's daring 'shaping operations,'" the *Financial Times* notes how the Ukrainian armed forces sought to draw Russia's attention away from the south to the north, seeking to shape Russia's perception of the battlefield. Although these shaping operations failed, Ukraine might have inspired Russia's 'probing operations.' [18]
 18. The Russian press, which has not commented on Russia's 'probing operations,' described how Russian artillery later destroyed the Bradley. Geolocated, synchronously juxtaposed photographs of the Bradley's destruction against the 47th Mechanized Brigade's footage on the duel portray matching environments, indicating that the Bradley in the former is the one from the latter.
- ### **Informational Warfare**
19. Axe's interpretation may have been motivated by a desire to substantiate further or by way of a single example the thesis that the Institute for the Study of War advanced on May 30th, 2024, regarding Russia's reserves. OSINT military bloggers conducted research on Russia's storage for both D-30 howitzers as well as its Armored Personnel Carriers. The data suggested that Russia's are diminished.

20. In his fifth lesson of war for one of the more honest NATO aligned opinions in the *Kyiv Independent*, a former U.S. assistant defense secretary, for instance, described how “[modern] wars are not only about whose army wins; they’re also about whose story wins.” [19]
21. Informational warfare, however, is both symptom as well as a result of the breakdown in the national, international, or global order. It is not a result of a competition to spin a story in the direction of his or her nation, nation’s foreign policy, or nation’s military. The journalists, whose objective is not to publish propaganda but to explain the objective developments of the war, cannot be expected to take part in any aspect of a war anymore than the war itself can be considered to be an ‘informational war’ among journalists. The objective forces of a conflict end the story. It is not the subjective attempts to persuade one or the other side for this or that conclusion.
22. It is especially important to understand the Ukraine war from

the perspective of Machiavelli. In one of his least famous books, *Dell’arte della guerra*, the Americans published in a special edition in 1812 directly from Jefferson’s copy of Peter Whitehorse’s translation[20], Machiavelli attributed to the competence of a military commander the ability to predict the outcome of a conflict with accuracy. Military commanders, defense intelligence analysts, or weapons specialists are competent to the extent that their predictions ring true.

23. If a central tenant of ‘informational warfare’ is disinformation, then disinformation is contrary to the analysis of war. A quote in Spanish, for instance, indicates the danger of dis-informational analysis: “Los que engañan a los otros se engañan a menudo a si mismos.”

Crucial Time

24. The duel comes at a crucial time for both militaries. The Ukrainian military, on the one hand, actively seeks to ensure its strategy for aviation succeeds. It seeks to destroy the multiple

- types of Russian *FlugundLuftabwehr* on the Ostflanke to pave the way for NATO's fighter jets to enter the battle against Russia. Ukraine's recent success with the destruction of Russia's anti-air defenses, both legacy [21], [22], as well as modern [23], [24], [25] reflects its full implementation.
25. Ukraine's strategy, however, is unrealistic. The Russian arsenal of air defenses contains so many different types of systems that the destruction of one type does not automatically make Russia's airspace indefensible. Russia's arsenal, unlike NATO's, is not restricted to the Patriot battery. Just to name one of the lesser known systems, the Russian 2K12 "Kub," a medium to low surface to air missile systems, for instance, is one of many different systems. Another is Russia's "Strela-10." Another still is Russia's 2K22 Tunguska. These but a few of the many.
26. Russia, on the other hand, recently opened the last side in its sixth front in the north, adding the Sumy side to both the Liptsi as well as the Vovchansk sides in the Kharkiv offensive, a shaping operation whose results reporting from the *Wall Street Journal* confirms.[26] The *Journal*, for instance, noted how "Russia's incursion across the border toward Kharkiv has introduced a distressing threat to Ukraine's military, which is already under constant assault farther southeast in the Donbas. Commanders have been forced to move troops to the north to shore up defenses while waiting for Western weapons in number big enough to have an impact."
27. Russia is actively seeking to ride the wave of falling Ukrainian villages the fall of Avdiivka initiated to coalesce on the Dnipro. The preparations for a lightning advance towards the Dnipro are already well underway with Russia's BMR-3MA Vepr operating on nearly all of the five axes of its advance in eastern Ukraine.[27], [28] Behind these BMR-3MA Veprs, Russia is deploying assault units from eight brigades in Pokrovsk, as well as in Kurakhove, as per a recent report from the Ukrainian daily, *Kyiv Independent*.[29]

28. These two strategies are expected to exacerbate the clash on the Ostflanke, as debate over both the prospects as well as the theory for a Ukrainian victory[] confront detractors who have already made the consignment of Ukraine's fate to that of its predecessors on the Ostflanke nothing more than a matter of time. The English daily, *Sunday Times*, for instance, considers "It's time we talked about the fall of Kyiv," while the Washington political newspaper, *Politico*, scheduled Ukraine's defeat months ago. "Ukraine is heading for defeat," as early as this summer. [30]

STOP THE WAR IN UKRAINE!

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NOW!

[1] - ["BTR-82A Armored Personnel Carrier," *Army-Technology*]

[2] - [Появилось видео дуэли российского БТР-82А с десантом и Bradley ВСУ в ДНР, Газета.Ru, 06.08.2024]

[3] - [На видео показано столкновение, произошедшее в поселке Сокол под Авдеевкой, Lenta.ru, 06.08.2024]

[4] - [На кадрах видно, как боевые машины на полной скорости мчатся навстречу друг другу по проселочной дороге и ведут огонь, News.ru, 06.08.2024]

[5] - [Российский экипаж открыл огонь из 30-миллиметровой пушки, Аргументы и Факты, 06.08.2024]

[6] - [Минобороны показало кадры уничтожения Abrams и БМП Bradley ВСУ под Авдеевкой, Российская Газета, 06.08.2024]

[7] - [Бойцы российской группировки "Центр" уничтожили под Авдеевкой американский танк Abrams и БМП Bradley, Российская Газета, 06.08.2024]

[8] - [Танк поразили артиллеристы группировки, применив

высокогорный снаряд “Краснополь,” удар нанес расчет самоходной артиллерийской установки (САУ) 2С19 “Мста с закрытой огневой позиции.” РИА Новости, 06.08.2024]

[9] - [БМП М2 Bradley подбил расчет FPV-дрона соединения спецназначения группировки “Центр.” РИА Новости, 06.08.2024]

[10] - [Оператор заметил цель, выполнил боевой заход и спикировал дроном в переднюю часть вражеской техники,” *News.ru*, 06.08.2024]

[11] - [Военкоры раскрыли судьбу экипажа БТР после дуэли с Bradley ВСУ под Авдеевкой, *Regnum*, 06.09.2024]

[12] - [Экипаж российского БТР-82А, вступивший в лобовую схватку с БМП Bradley киевских боевиков у посёлка Сокол под Авдеевкой в ДНР, выполнил боевую задачу высадил десантников в населенном пункте, *Regnum*, 06.09.2024]

[13] - [“По информации военкоров, российские бойцы на БТР не испугались более тяжёлой Bradley, открыли огонь из 30-

миллиметровой пушки, *Regnum*, 06.09.2024]

[14] - [“Подробности “безумной дуэли”, кадры которой разошлись по соцсетям, рассказало агентство *Anna-News*, Российская Газета, 06.09.2024]

[15] - [“На кадрах также видны тела бойцов ВСУ, брошенные на поле боя в ходе отступления украинской армии из населённого пункта, *Regnum*, 06.09.2024]

[16] - [“Somewhere In Eastern Ukraine, A Russian BTR-82 Vehicle Played a Deadly Game of Chicken With a Ukrainian M-2. The BTR lost. Badly.” *Forbes*, June 8th, 2024]

[17] - [“As Fighting Rages in Ukraine, a Struggle is on for Artillery Supremacy,” *New York Times*, June 7th, 2024]

[18] - [“Military briefing: Ukraine’s daring ‘shaping operations’ stretch Russian defenses,” *Financial Times*, May 30th, 2023]

[19] - [“Opinion: 8 Lessons from Russia’s war in Ukraine,” *Kyiv Independent*, June 11th, 2024]

[20] - [*Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, 1986. Princeton., pg. 27]

[21] - ["ЗСУ знищили російський ЗРК Оса на околиці Донецька," *Militarnyi*, 24 Травня, 2024]

[22] - ["28 ОМБр знищила FPV-дроном ворожий ЗРК "Оса," *Militarnyi*, 28 Березня, 2024]

[23] - ["Ukraine hit Russian S-400, S-300 systems in occupied Crimea overnight, General Staff says," *Kyiv Independent*, June 10th, 2024]

[24] - ["Ukraine destroyed Russian S-300, S-400 systems' radars in occupied Crimea, military says," *Kyiv Independent*, June 12th, 2024]

[25] - ["Ukrainian ATACMS Rockets Are Blowing Up Russia's Best S-400 Air Defenses As Fast As The S-400 Can Deploy to Crimea," *Forbes*, June 12th, 2024]

[26] - ["Ukraine Warns of Deepening Russian Threat in the North," *WSJ*, May 30th, 2024]

[27] - [@ISTRATIJI: "بدأ الجيش الروسي باستخدام مدرعات إزالة الألغام القتالية BMR-3MA Vepr الروسية بكثرة جميع تجهيزات "BMRs" الجبهات، وتجهيز القدرة على كنس ليس "TMT-S" الألغام الدوارة فقط الألغام المضادة للدبابات الكلاسيكية وإنما أيضا

ألغام حلف "الناتو" والألغام المضادة للقاع المغناطيسي," June 12th, 2024] The

[28] Russian news channel, @zvezdanews, published a video depicting Russian sappers deploying Uran-6 robots to de-mine in the Avdiivka direction (i.e., towards Pokrovks).

[29] - ["Russia deploys assault units from 8 brigades in Pokrovsk, Kurakhove sectors, Strycki says," *The Kyiv Independent*, June 12th, 2024]

[30] — ["Ukraine is heading for defeat," *Politico*, April 17th, 2024]