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UKRAINE AFLAME

War Chronicles: Month 1.
Speeches and addresses
by the President of Ukraine
Volodymyr Zelenskyy

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Foreword

Having heard warnings of the potential invasion along the Ukraine-Russia and Ukraine-Belorus border, many of us, Ukrainians, could not merely believe it until the last minute. It is true that we had already gained the experience of losing Crimea, when, after Maidan, Russia did take the advantage of the power shift in Ukraine not only to annex the peninsula but also to use the hybrid war and establish hybrid quasi-states in eastern Ukraine in spring 2014, concealing the military activities of its troops with those of the “armies” allegedly set up by the non-existing terroristic “states”. It is true that the Russian regular army was involved in the battles of Ilovaisk in 2014 and Debaltseve in 2015, which ended in two rounds of Minsk negotiations. It is also true that democracies worldwide even imposed symbolic sanctions, which were successfully overcome by the Russian economy. All of us realized that the eight-year war could not have any other logical ending than the direct military confrontation of the two armies, and the activities of the Ukrainian power to postpone this confrontation were clear. We realized our army had changed and most Soviet-time carpet knights had been dismissed. However, we also realized that the large-scale sale of our military assets by most Ukrainian Presidents and Prime-Ministers in the 1990s and the early 2000s left Ukraine without a significant part of its military arsenal. The long-term total lack of funding in our military-industrial complex accompanied with the rhetoric of peace from the great powers entailed the loss of a range

of technologies that were partially renewed after 2014. The biggest achievement of the Ukrainian army was its people — motivated, educated and advanced soldiers and commanders with military experience and determination to protect their home country from the Russian aggression.

Even the first hours of the Russian invasion clearly showed that the invaders would not be warmly welcomed or greeted with flowers, which had been expected by the Russian politicians and spin doctors. Instead, they were met with fierce resistance on step of the Ukrainian land. The Ukrainian Territorial Defence Law became effective on January 1, 2022, and the territorial defence units were set up across the country. Starting on the first day of the invasion, everybody, who could and had the experience of handling weapons, were given automatic arms. The Border Service, the National Guard, the National Police, and the State Guard joined the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend the country. The whole nation learnt the name of Valeriy Zaluzhnyy, the Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who leads the defence of the country. What is more, the Ukrainians united in supporting the Supreme Commander-in-Chief — President Zelenskyy, whose daily addresses have boosted nation's solidarity. The President appeared not only ready to resist but also determined to lead others to the Victory from the very first hours of the war. The Presidential address itself “Free people of a free country” showed that the only way to ending the war will only be our victory.

Hesitations of some allies of ours to supply us with lethal and then offensive weapons have been surmounted by the President's persistence, his confidence in himself and his people. Every day of the war, stifling the enemy on the key routes, the start of resistance demonstrated that the support of Ukraine by the global powers was the only possible way out.

The willingness of some world leaders to postpone sanctions, deter, wait until the war ends in the Russian favor, were confronted with the firmness of our leader in his addresses to the national parliaments around the world, foremost allies, and the countries that had doubts regarding the embargo and the issues of weapons supplies. It was President's daily personal involvement in the diplomatic efforts that initially brought the first uncertain steps as to the sanctions, key global brands leaving the Russian market, blocking oligarchs' bank accounts, terminating energy resources supplies, and then severe sanction packages, deporting diplomats, depriving Russian key businessmen and Russian politicians' families of their funds, deporting students etc.

The Ukrainian army has been raising the number of destroyed enemies, planes, helicopters, tanks and other military machines. Over the first month of the war, the enemy's losses exceeded those in the two Chechen wars and Syria together, became comparable with the USSR losses over the years of the war in Afghanistan. Most units of the Russian military troops participating in the war, need reinforcement due to the incurred losses.

Regardless of the duration of this war, the knowledgeable command of our army, the united diplomatic front, and the support of the key allies — the USA and the UK — will lead to the only possible outcome — Ukrainian Victory. Those foreign politicians who expected the Russian victory will apologize to the Ukrainians. The Russian states persons succeeding Putin will be kneeling for years imploring forgiveness from our people.

Oleksandr Krasovytsky

February 24, 2022

News Round-Up

- ▶ At 4.35 a.m. the shelling from Grad Multiple Rocket Launchers, artillery and mortar launchers at Donetsk and Luhansk regions began from territory of the RF and occupied Donbas territories. Explosions can be heard in dozens of towns.
- ▶ At 5.00 rocket strikes of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolayiv, Zhytomyr and other Ukrainian cities started. These caused numerous large fires, in particular, in residential areas where rockets hit apartment blocks.
- ▶ In the area of settlement Shchastia, Luhansk region, the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed 2 Russian tanks and several trucks.
- ▶ Russians carried out rocket attacks of the civil airports in Ivano-Frankivsk, Kosiv and Kolomyia.
- ▶ Deceitfully moving OSCE marked white automobiles ahead, a Russian tank convoy invaded Luhansk region, where it was attacked and destroyed by the Ukrainian border service.
- ▶ In Kherson region, Ukrainian Armed Forces are heavily fighting with the occupants.
- ▶ In the Joint Forces Operation area, 7 Russian planes and a helicopter were downed.

- ▶ In Uman, Cherkasy region, a Russian artillery projectile hit the town center, causing casualties among civilians.
- ▶ The Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed 4 Russian tanks on the bypass road around Kharkiv.
- ▶ The invaders ordered the border patrol outpost on Snake Island (Zmiinyi Island) in the Black Sea to surrender. Having received the reply “Russian warship, go f**k yourself! (originally, “Русский военный корабль, иди нахуй!”), they fiercely fired the tiny island.
- ▶ The Russians shelled a residential area in the town of Chuhuyiv in Kharkiv region, killing a child.
- ▶ The invaders launched 2 missiles to hit the town of Brovary outside Kyiv — 6 civilians were killed and 12 were injured.
- ▶ Russian aggressors used helicopters to fire upon Hostomel near Kyiv, where an airdrome of the Antonov aircraft plant is located. Free-fall dumb bombs cause numerous fires.
- ▶ Heavy fights are ongoing in Luhansk region: 2 Russian tanks and a light armored vehicle were destroyed.
- ▶ Invaders shelled Skhidnyi residential area in Mariupol.
- ▶ In Sumy region, the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed 15 Russian tanks.

Address by the President of Ukraine

February 24, 2022. 18:01

Citizens of Ukraine!

What do we hear today? It's not just rocket explosions, battles, the roar of aircraft. It is the sound of a new Iron Curtain lowering and closing Russia away from the civilized world. Our national task is to make this curtain pass not through our Ukrainian territory, but at the home of Russians.

The Ukrainian army, our border guards, police and special services stopped the enemy's attacks. In the language of conflict, this can be called an operational pause.

In Donbas, our Armed Forces are doing great, the Kharkiv direction is very difficult, the forces for the defence of the city are working, they are reliable, they are our men. The most problematic situation today is in the south. Our troops are fighting fierce battles in the suburbs of Kherson. The enemy is pushing out of the occupied Crimea, trying to advance towards Melitopol.

In the north of the country, the enemy is slowly advancing in the Chernihiv region, but there are forces to hold it. Reliable defence is built in the Zhytomyr region. Enemy paratroopers in Hostomel are blocked, troops are ordered to destroy them.

Yes, we, unfortunately, have losses, losses of our heroes. Yes, we have captured Russian soldiers. Our doctors are helping some of them — those who have surrendered. Many Russian aircraft and many armored vehicles were destroyed.

Yes, we see that many Russians are shocked by what is happening. Some Russians are already calling on social media

that they are against the war. We see it. But the leadership of the Russian Federation is unlikely to see it.

So please.

If you hear us, if you understand us, if you understand that you are attacking an independent country, please go out to the squares and address the President of your country.

We are Ukrainians. We are on our land. You are Russians. Now your military has started a war. The war in our state. I would very much like you to speak on Red Square or somewhere else on the streets of your capital, in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other cities in Russia. Not only on Instagram — it is very important.

What do we see at this hour? For the world community, Russia is becoming an analogue of the so-called DPR — this is complete isolation.

I am in constant contact with the leaders of partner countries and international organizations. Russia has already begun receiving the first sanctions from a large package of sanctions, the most powerful in world history.

No one will be able to convince or force us, Ukrainians, to give up our freedom, our independence, our sovereignty. But it seems that the Russian leadership is trying to do this by destroying the potential of their country. Everything that Russia has done since 2000 can now be burned live in front of the world.

We emphasize that Ukraine did not choose the path of war. But Ukraine offers to return to peace.

What can Ukrainians do? Help the national defence. Join the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and territorial defence units. Any citizen with combat experience will now be useful. It is up to you and all of us whether the enemy will be able to advance further into the territory of our independ-

ent state. Please help the volunteer community and the medical system, for example, by donating blood.

Politicians and community leaders — help people, ensure normal life on the ground as much as possible. Everyone should take care of their loved ones and take care of those neighbors or acquaintances who need it. The duty of journalists, an important duty, is to defend democracy and freedom in Ukraine.

I spoke today with many leaders — the United Kingdom, Turkey, France, Germany, the EU, the United States, Sweden, Romania, Poland, Austria and others.

If you, dear European leaders, dear world leaders, leaders of the free world, do not help us today, then tomorrow the war will knock on your door.

Glory to the Armed Forces of Ukraine!

Glory to Ukraine!

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