

# UKRAINE AFLAME 3

War Chronicles: the third month.  
Speeches and addresses  
by the President of Ukraine  
Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Kharkiv  
«Folio»  
2022

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## Foreword

This book became the third in our project to publish a chronicle of what is happening in Ukraine from 5:00 a.m. on February 24, 2022 — the moment when Russian troops crossed the borders of Ukraine with the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, Crimea, occupied in 2014, and part of the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions.

Unfortunately, we have to state that this war has become the main military event in Europe after 1945. In terms of the number of refugees in Europe, it exceeded the long-term conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Lebanon combined. We are grateful to the civilized world, which fraternally accepted those who were better off leaving the war — women, children, and the elderly. This war turned Europe into a continent of almost complete support of Ukrainians — with money, weapons, and humanitarian aid.

The war that is going on now is just another heated stage of what Russia is trying to do in order to destroy the Ukrainian people, whose very existence is a great irritant for the Russian elites. They intended to destroy Ukraine into ruins in the 17th century; they attempted to assimilate it, starting from the 18th century; they aimed to leave this country without defenders by evicting the Cossacks from our territory in the 19th century; they tried to deprive it of statehood at the be-

ginning of the 20th century; they arranged the “Holodomor” famine in pursuit of the direct destruction of the Ukrainian peasantry — the basis of the nation; they were killing those, who tried to restore this statehood in the middle of the 20th century.

For those who understand history, this war — with all the absurdity of territorial seizures in the 21st century — is the logical result of the rise to power in Russia of oligarchic and Secret Service clans that dream of restoring the evil empire, the USSR. Yet, this time Ukraine will definitely stand up strong to evil threats. Here, three factors came together: there are hundreds of thousands of people who have gone to the front since 2014, and who are motivated to defend the country; there exists systemic support from the West; and, most importantly, there is the unity of the country, with almost complete absence of collaborators, traitors, and alarmists among Ukrainians.

It was in this third month of the war, that it became clear that hostilities are not for a week or a month. Also, and that this special operation will continue until the moment when the last Russian soldier leaves the territory of our country — in a plastic bag, in a zinc coffin, or on top of their military equipment running for their dear lives under the blows of the Ukrainian military. And, that as a result of this war, Crimea and Donbas should become Ukrainian again, newly captured territories should be liberated, and the aggressor’s army should be defeated.

It was in the third month that the heroic defence of Mariupol and its part, the Azovstal Plant, by units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Separate “Azov” Regiment ended. The names of each of those who died defending the city will go down in history. Thousands of civilians killed by the invaders, unfortunately, will never see a peaceful, liberated Mariupol.

It was in this month that local residents, Western diplomats, and employees of state institutions actively returned to Kyiv. It was in this month that Western leaders’ trips to Kyiv to visit the liberated cities of Bucha, Irpin, and Borodyanka became a common phenomenon.

Among those who visited here, it is especially meaningful to note the arrival of the President of Poland Andrzej Duda and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland Yaroslaw Kaczyński. It was this country that became almost the biggest friend of Ukraine, not only accepting millions of refugees, but also providing hubs on its territory for the supply of weapons to Ukraine, training of our soldiers, logistics of the most important goods, fuel, and food aid for us.

During this period, the first samples of modern weapons, which are on combat duty in NATO troops, began to arrive in Ukraine, primarily 155 mm M777 howitzer artillery from the United States of America, as well as other samples from Slovakia, Norway, and Britain. The British leader has become the person who not only helps personally, but also helps to convince the leaders of other countries of the need for such help.

In May, the gradual return to work of Ukrainian industrial enterprises, the restoration of the main commodity markets and exports began. Ukrainian grain, the trade of which was stopped by the aggressor, began its movement to countries that would otherwise face famine and enormous problems without it, through Poland, Slovakia, and Romania. So far, it is a small part, but with the help of neighbours, the movement of grain to world markets will be improved before the start of the new harvest season.

Now that we have seen the victories of the Ukrainian military, the strength of our rear, we understand that the history of this war will become the history of our victory.

*Oleksandr Krasovytsky*

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## **April 25, 2022**

### **News Round-Up**

- ▶ As it became known, on Sunday in Kyiv, the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy received US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Minister Lloyd Austin. The latter announced foreign military funding for Ukraine and 15 allied and partner countries in the amount of 713 million dollars, being about 322 million dollars provided for Kyiv. The rest will be distributed between NATO members and other countries that have provided Ukraine with important military supplies since the start of the war with Russia, officials said. The new aid, along with the sale of \$165 million worth in non-American-made ammunition compatible with Soviet-era weapons, sums up the total U.S. military aid to Ukraine to \$3.7 billion since the Russian invasion.
- ▶ The gradual return of American diplomats to Ukraine and the appointment of a new ambassador were also announced.
- ▶ In the Luhansk Region, on Easter, the Russians destroyed seven apartment buildings and hit an oil refinery for the third time.

- ▶ On Easter, the Russians deported the residents of the blockaded Mariupol to Russia — total 149 people, including 23 children.
- ▶ On Easter, the Russian army launched a rocket attack on the Kremenchuk Thermal Power Plant and the Kremenchuk Oil Refinery, killing one person and injuring seven others.
- ▶ On the night of April 25, in the Dnipropetrovsk Region, Russian troops shelled Shyrokyne community with “Urahan” multiple launch rocket system. In the evening, there was a rocket attack on the refinery and thermal power plant in Kremenchuk, and there was also an attack on the refinery in Lysychansk.
- ▶ On the morning of April 25, the Russian occupiers fired at five railway stations in the centre and west of Ukraine, causing casualties and injuries. Two missiles flew over the Khmelnytskyi NPP.
- ▶ In the Zaporizhzhia Region, the occupiers are trying to concentrate their efforts in the direction of Huliaipole. They continue to fire at the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine from mortars, artillery and multiple rocket systems along the entire confrontation line.
- ▶ On the southern lines of defence, the Armed Forces of Ukraine disrupted the advance of enemy sabotage and

reconnaissance groups towards the Mykolaiv Region and caused them losses of up to 50% of their personnel.

- ▶ In the Kharkiv Region, the occupiers took one of the factories to Russia, and they set up a concentration camp and a torture chamber in the premises.
- ▶ In Bryansk, Russia, there was a fire at an oil depot. Residents of the city reported that explosions preceded it.
- ▶ The Russian invaders tried to conduct an assault in the direction of Izyum — Barvinkovo and Izyum — Sloviansk, but they were unsuccessful.
- ▶ At least 215 Ukrainian children died and more than 391 were injured because of Russia's attack on Ukraine, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine reported. In particular, on Easter, two girls aged 5 and 14, died because of shelling by Russian troops in the village of Krasnohorivka, the Donetsk Region.
- ▶ The head of the Luhansk Regional Military Administration, Serhiy Haidai, called on residents to evacuate in order not to become victims of forced deportation to Russia.
- ▶ According to the prosecutor's office, at least 3,818 civilians were killed in Ukraine as of April 25, and more than 4,000 people were injured.



- ▶ The total losses of Russian troops in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale war are approaching 22,000, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported.
- ▶ Five people were killed and other 18 were injured as a result of Russian rocket attacks on railway infrastructure near the towns of Zhmerinka and Kozyatyn, the Vinnytsia Region.
- ▶ As a result of Russian missile attacks on the Lviv Region, an explosion occurred at the traction substation of Krasne railway station.
- ▶ On Monday, the Air Force's Anti-Aircraft Missile Troops of the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed two Russian cruise missiles that had been fired at critical infrastructure facilities in the western part of Ukraine.
- ▶ Air Defence Forces destroyed a Russian Su-34 all-weather two-seater fighter-bomber in the Kharkiv Region.
- ▶ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine Iryna Vereshchuk denied Russia's statement about the existence of agreements regarding humanitarian corridors with the Azovstal Plant in blocked Mariupol.
- ▶ The invaders occupied the village of Novotoshkivske, the Luhansk Region, after having actually destroyed the settlement.

- ▶ Ukrainian Su-25 pilot Roman Vasylyuk, who was shot down in March by enemy air defence in the Donetsk Region, was freed from Russian captivity.
- ▶ The occupiers are forcing the residents of Velyka Oleksandrivka small town in the Kherson Region, to leave the settlement, otherwise they are threatening deportation.
- ▶ The invaders occupied the Kherson City Council building; the City Hall suspended its work.
- ▶ The National Research Fund of Ukraine has published another list of Western scientific and educational centres with which it has reached an agreement to provide grant support and other types of assistance to Ukrainian scientists affected by the war.
- ▶ The Russians fired artillery and mortars at the Bilopilnia community in the Sumy Region, from the territory of the Russian Federation.
- ▶ On April 25, as a result of enemy shelling, three residents of the village of Bezruky near Derhachy in the Kharkiv Region, were killed.

## **The Orthodox world has seen that Easter means nothing to Russia — address by the President of Ukraine**

*25 April 2022. 10:58*

***Ukrainians!***

***All our defenders!***

Yesterday, Christians of the Eastern rite celebrated Easter. The traditional greeting “Christ is risen!” sounded also in Russia. But did these words mean the same thing as in the whole Orthodox world?

Russia “congratulated” Ukraine on Easter with an air threat almost all over our country, a missile strike at the Poltava region, and a missile strike at Kremenchuk. Why was this attack needed at Easter? There is no military threat from which this could protect Russia. This is just a deliberate destruction of life in Ukraine. Destruction that did not stop even on the greatest Orthodox holiday.

So are these people who continued to shell our cities and communities yesterday Christians? Who fired at Chuhuiv of the Kharkiv region. Who killed two more children in the Donetsk region on Easter — girls aged five and fourteen.

Killing children, destroying lives, covering up with cynical and total lies what has been done against peaceful cities — all Russia is doing on the territory of Ukraine — is definitely not Christianity. This is what Christ opposed.

People who once again refused to open humanitarian corridors from Mariupol are not Christians. People who filmed propaganda reports in the occupied regions of Ukraine about the distribution of alleged humanitarian Easter kits are not Christians. Moreover, everyone knows, including in Russia, that before February 24, all Ukrainians in all parts of Ukraine had the opportunity to celebrate Easter freely in any church and without any “humanitarian” kits.

People who are trying to build a brutal occupation regime in the seized districts of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, holding people hostage, torturing people are not Christians. Those who did not allow people to leave the occupied territory even on Easter, threatening them with death.

Russia was offered an Easter ceasefire. But the Orthodox world has seen that for the Russian invaders Easter means nothing. For them, it is just a red date in the calendar, which requires special words, special behavior, but not what is called faith, and not what is called Christian good.

The Russian army has made this Easter red not only formally in the calendar, but also red with blood. Christians would not do that if they had the opportunity to make peace.

So holding a candle in the temple does not mean being a Christian. Eating or even celebrating Easter every year is not enough to be human, to be a Christian.

And I am grateful to all our police officers, to all employees of the Security Service of Ukraine, to all those who were responsible for security on Easter, for not allowing any provocations yesterday. All that Russian propagandists announced recently.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine are deterring attacks by Russian troops in key areas. In the Kharkiv region — in the Izyum direction, in Donbas — especially near Popasna, in Mariupol where the resistance of the city's defenders continues, in the southern areas, where the occupiers are trying to go on the offensive.

Air alarms this morning were heard again almost all over our country. Vinnytsia, Rivne, Lviv, Odesa regions — missile threat. Russia does not stop trying to break our resistance to... Achieve what?

In the occupied areas, either a humanitarian catastrophe has already occurred or there is very little time left before it occurs. There is a lack of basic products, there is a lack of medicines. People do not have the means to live normally, there is no basic security. They don't have everything they had before February 24. What Donetsk and Luhansk had before 2014. Everything that we will definitely return after the liberation of our land.

We continue to do everything to drive the occupiers out and restore peace to all our people. A key element of this process is the strength of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Availability of sufficient quantity and quality of weapons, sufficient quantity and quality of ammunition.

Assistance to Ukraine was the number one issue in talks with representatives of the United States of America who arrived in Kyiv yesterday — Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. Our talks with them were long enough — more than three hours — and meaningful. Encouraging and, which is important, effective.

I am grateful to the people of the United States and personally to President Biden for the strong and sincere support we receive. These are real things that strengthen not only our state, but democracy as a whole.

We share the same understanding with the United States: when democracy wins in one country, it wins all over the world. When freedom is defended in one country, it is defended all over the world.

We agreed with the American side on further steps to strengthen the Armed Forces of Ukraine and meet all the priority needs of our army. This includes preparations for a major ministerial meeting in Germany on Tuesday, which will bring together forty defense ministers from partner countries. The key issue is the protection of Ukraine, the protection of freedom in Eastern Europe.

Ways to strengthen sanctions were discussed. The fact that Russia is not looking for peace and is demonstratively killing even on Easter shows that greater sanctions pressure is needed. It is necessary to block all opportunities for Russia to circumvent sanctions. So we handed over to our partners a special Plan to strengthen sanctions on the Russian Federation developed by an international expert group led by Andriy Yermak and Michael McFaul.

A separate point of the negotiations was financial support for Ukraine. When tyranny has enormous financial resources from oil and gas exports, the issue of financial support for freedom becomes vital. I heard a full understanding of this position from American friends. Not only in the context of

helping Ukraine now, during the war, but also for the post-war reconstruction.

Discussions on security guarantees for Ukraine continued. I am convinced that the United States can be a leader among the future countries — guarantors of Ukraine's security. The main goal for all of us is to make Europe and the world safer after the war, to ensure that the security architecture works in the event of any new threats.

I was pleased to hear from our friends that the United States Embassy will be back in Kyiv in the near future. The appointment of a new US Ambassador to Ukraine will also take place. This is a very useful gesture of support for our state.

I had an important conversation with Turkish President Erdoğan. On the situation in Mariupol and the need to evacuate civilians and the wounded, the need for immediate exchange of the blocked Ukrainian military.

We discussed the negotiation process with Russia and the issues of defense. The threats to the world food market provoked by Russia, which has blocked our Black Sea ports, were also discussed in detail.

Rising food prices have already reached critical levels in many countries. But this is just the beginning. If Russia does not seek peace, the issue of food security in many countries will become a matter of physical survival for millions of people and, consequently, stability of state systems.

More and more political leaders around the world are aware of this threat. So we expect more pressure on Russia.

I congratulated President of France Macron on winning the elections. We spoke with Mr. President at night. Ukraine

will always appreciate his support, and will always be grateful for the help of France. I am convinced that together with France, together with President Macron, we will be able to do much more to protect our common freedom, our united Europe.

Late last night, after all foreign policy issues, I signed important decrees to award our heroes. 188 servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and five employees of the Security Service of Ukraine were awarded state awards of Ukraine.

The title of Hero of Ukraine was awarded to Colonel Chayuk Denys Valentynovych, deputy commander of the 128th separate mountain assault brigade, for personal courage and effectiveness in battles with the occupiers, for destroying enemy equipment and manpower.

***Glory to all our heroes!***

***Eternal memory to everyone who gave life for Ukraine!***

***Glory to Ukraine!***



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