

Russia smashes Ukraine's defenses in key Donbass stronghold – Defense Ministry

The military is completing the liberation of Krasny Liman as the offensive towards Slavyansk and Kramatorsk continues, Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov has said

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Russian forces are on track to liberate the key Donbass stronghold of Krasny Liman, located around 17 km northeast of the regional center of Slavyansk, Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov has announced, adding that Ukraine's organized defenses in the area have been completely shattered.

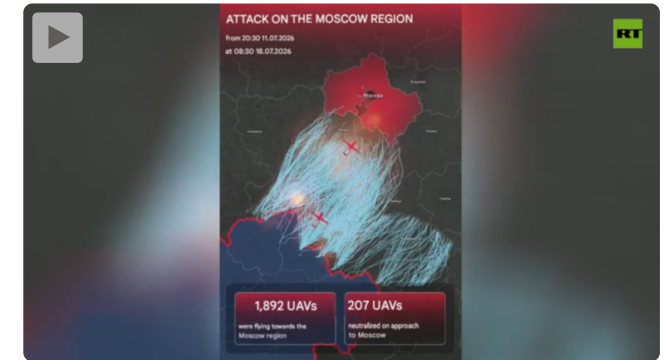
The chief of staff made the remarks on Saturday as he inspected a command post of the Russian 'West' group of forces.

Russian troops are currently sweeping through the town, conducting search-and-destroy operations against the remaining Ukrainian holdouts, Gerasimov stated.



A Russian serviceman takes shells for a 82-mm mortar during combat training amid Russia's military operation in Ukraine, in the Donetsk People's Republic, Russia. © Sputnik

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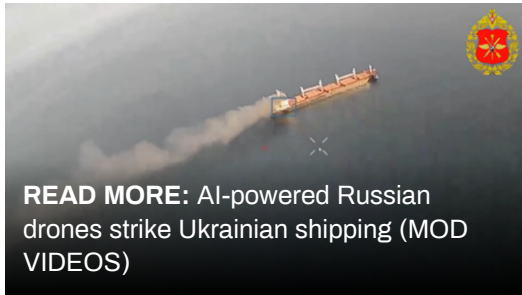
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"Units of the 25th Army are completing the liberation of the city of Krasny Liman, which is crucial for further operations on this axis. The enemy's organized defense in the town has been broken, and isolated pockets of resistance are being eliminated," he said.

Located in the north of Russia's Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), Krasny Liman has seen intensive combat in recent weeks, with Russian forces advancing onto the town from the east. It was first liberated from Ukrainian forces in May 2022, but was recaptured later that year.



The town served as a key logistics hub and stronghold for Ukrainian units stationed in the north of the republic.

Speaking at the command post, Gerasimov touched upon developments elsewhere on the front line. He said Russian troops have been expanding the zone of control around the recently liberated DPR city of Konstantinovka, located at the southernmost tip of the Slavyansk-Kramatorsk

agglomeration, a heavily fortified string of settlements in the northern part of the DPR that are still under Ukrainian control.

Russian troops have advanced to the northwest of the city toward the town of Druzhkova between Konstantinovka and Kramatorsk, and have already entered the satellite village of Alekseyevo-Druzhkovka and are battling Ukrainian units stationed there, according to Gerasimov.

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