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Ukraine can't stop it, maps can't hide it: Russia's summer blitz redraws the war

A detailed breakdown of the new offensive that's reshaping the battlefield from Sumy to Dnepropetrovsk



As the spring sun gave way to the heat of early summer, a new phase of the military campaign began to unfold across the front lines – and this time, the initiative clearly belongs to Russia.

After months of grinding attritional warfare, Russian forces have launched a sweeping spring-summer offensive that is already delivering tangible results. From the borderlands of Sumy to the contested hills near Chasov Yar and the approaches to Dnepropetrovsk, the tempo has shifted decisively. Ukraine, battered and overextended, is now struggling to contain simultaneous breakthroughs across multiple sectors.

The silence of Western media around these developments only underscores the magnitude of what is unfolding on the ground. A coordinated advance is in motion – methodical, strategic, and, by all appearances, effective.

Sumy direction: Establishing a buffer zone

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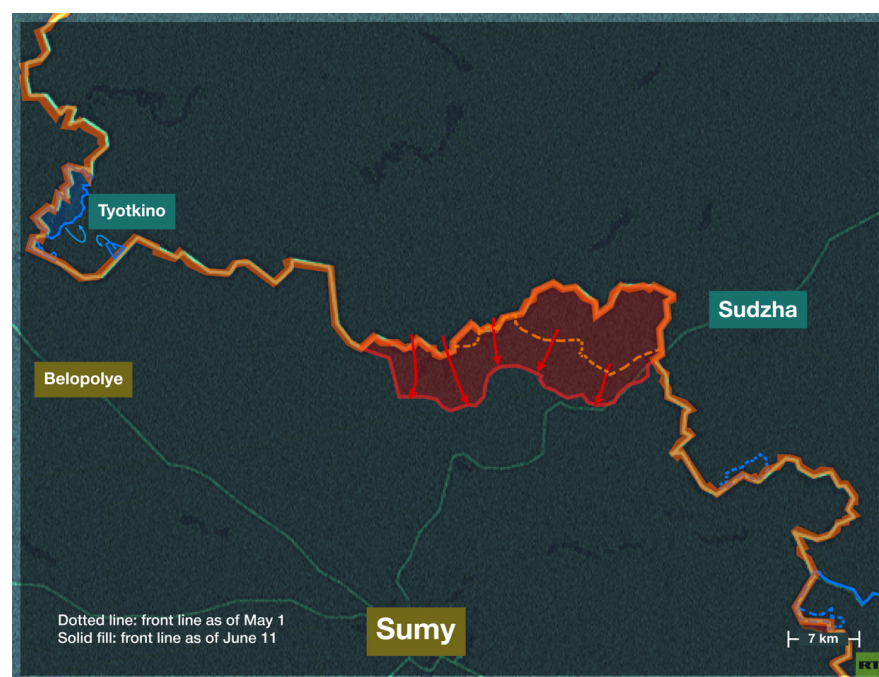
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Following the liberation of Sudzha in early March 2025, the fighting quickly spilled across the border into Ukraine's Sumy Region. Moscow officially described its objective as the creation of a buffer zone – meant to safeguard the resumption of peaceful civilian life in Russia's neighboring Kursk Region.

Motivated by political considerations, the Ukrainian Army has been trying to cling to a narrow foothold just across the border, in the village of Tyotkino in Kursk Region. In fact, Kiev has deployed some of its most experienced and ideologically committed units to this stretch of the front. But rather than showcasing Ukrainian resolve, the situation in Tyotkino has underscored the growing imbalance in offensive capabilities between Ukrainian and Russian forces in 2025.



© RT / Sergey Poletaev based on data from Lostarmor.Ru

From the Russian side, Tyotkino is essentially a logistical cul-de-sac. But for Ukraine, the village connects to a critical rear supply hub in Belopolye. Even so, Ukrainian efforts to expand their presence in the area have ended in near catastrophe. In mid-May, the commander of Ukraine's 47th Brigade came close to staging a mutiny, accusing his superiors of issuing reckless orders that led to needless casualties.

Elsewhere along the Sumy front, Ukrainian forces – many of them retreating from Sumy and the surrounding areas – have taken heavy losses. This remains a strategically vital axis for Ukraine. The authorities have announced mandatory evacuations in another 11 settlements, bringing the total number of evacuated towns and villages in the region to 213.

Notably, this marks the first time Russian forces have entered Sumy Region since spring 2022.

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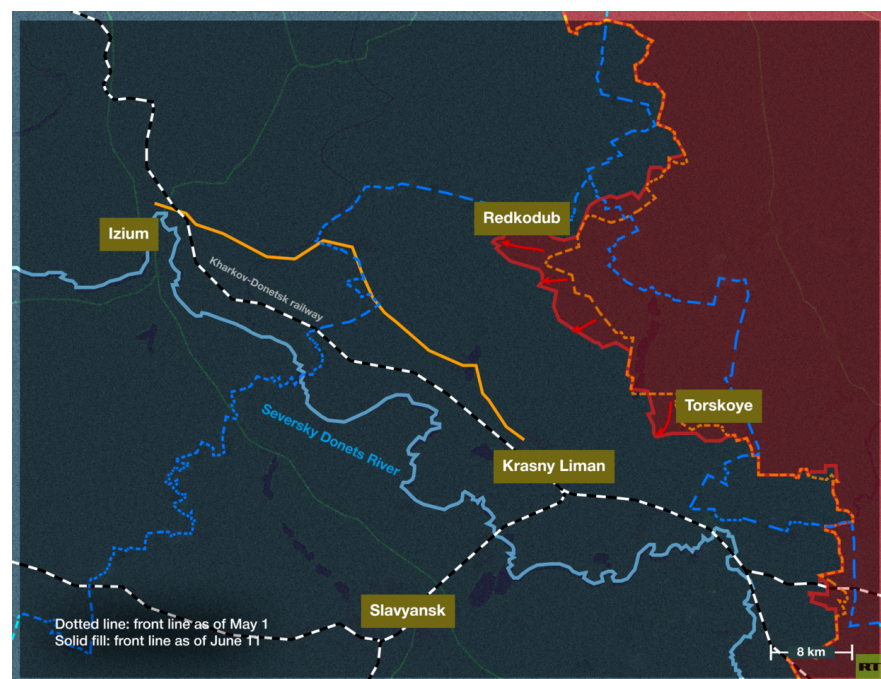
FEATURE

As of now, Russian advances appear to be accelerating. The front line has moved to within roughly 20km of the city of Sumy itself.

Liman direction: Not a dead end

Liman (also known as Krasny Liman) is a strategic city in the Donetsk People's Republic, with a pre-war population of around 20,000. Situated along the Kharkov-Donetsk railway, it serves as a key transportation hub in eastern Ukraine. After brief fighting, the city fell under Russian control in late May 2022 – but was later lost during Ukraine's Kharkov offensive in October of the same year.

Today, Russian forces appear intent on retaking Liman by cutting off a single critical road that leads northwest toward Iziium.



© RT / Sergey Poletaev based on data from Lostarmor.Ru

The current offensive seems focused precisely on this objective. On May 15, Russian troops secured the village of Torskoye, followed by the capture of Redkodub May 29-30. Both settlements are considered vital defensive outposts for the Ukrainian Army along the route to Liman.

From the south, the Liman front is effectively sealed off by the Seversky Donets River. During the brutal fighting in 2022, neither side managed to establish a crossing. With the evolution of drone warfare, any river assault today would be even more difficult to carry out.

Russian forces are now within 10km of Liman and just 7km from the Iziium road. The offensive is ongoing.

Konstantinovka direction: The site of the main

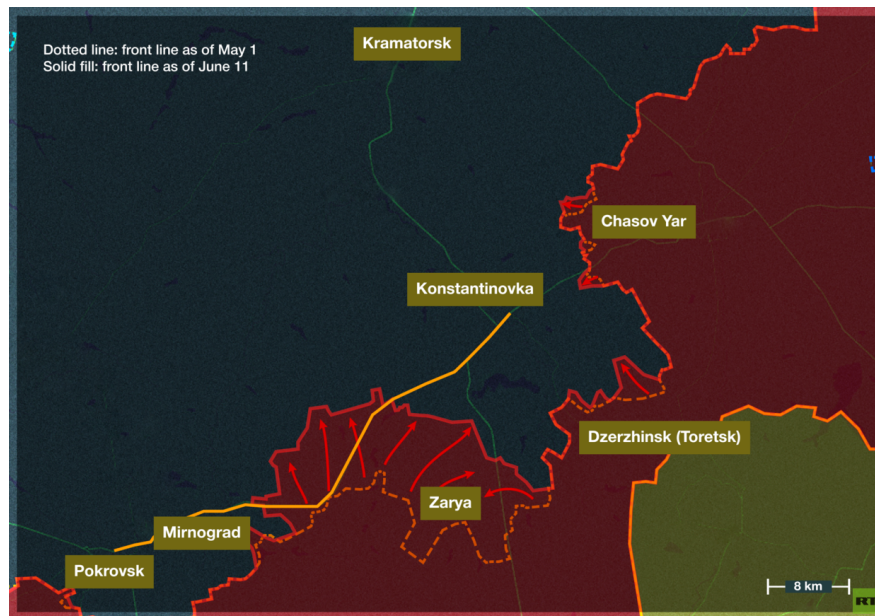
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offensive

As of early June, the stretch of the front from Dzerzhinsk (also known as Toretsk) to Mirnograd has become one of the most active battle zones. Russian forces have advanced up to 10km along a 30-kilometer-wide front, capturing 12 settlements and securing more than 15km of a key bypass highway linking Pokrovsk to Konstantinovka.



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These gains suggest that a southern encirclement of Konstantinovka – a city with a pre-war population of 67,000 – may now be underway. Simultaneously, fighting has intensified on the northern flank around Chasov Yar. The terrain in this area poses serious tactical challenges: Chasov Yar sits on elevated ground beyond the Seversky Donets–Donbass Canal, complicating efforts to establish supply lines or mount a full-scale offensive from that direction.

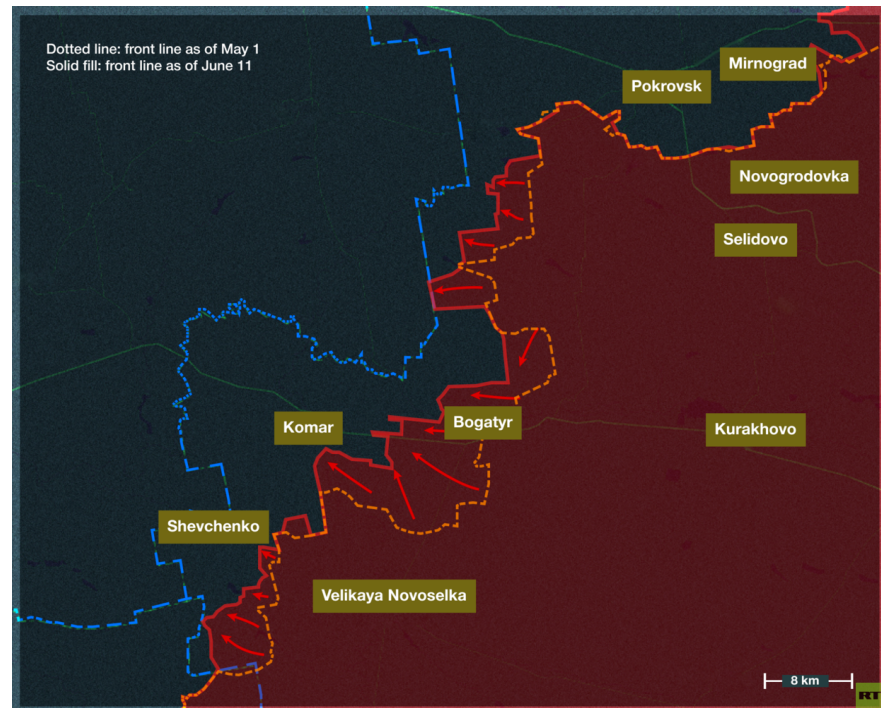
Notably, this sector – among the three fronts currently in focus – has received the least media attention. That may soon change. Given its strategic positioning, it could emerge as a central axis of Russia's summer campaign.

In the past week, Russian forces dismantled a significant Ukrainian stronghold north of the village of Zarya. The terrain here is rugged and uneven, but if fully secured, it would open a path for Russian troops to push toward the southern outskirts of Konstantinovka.

Pokrovsk and Velikaya Novoselka directions: Approaching the borders of the DPR

Pokrovsk (Krasnoarmeysk), a city of 65,000 before the war, has been under siege since autumn 2024. After Russia's swift capture of nearby Novogrodovka and Selidovo, it initially appeared that Pokrovsk would fall just as quickly. But in a

surprising pivot, Russian command redirected its main effort toward the Kurakhovo axis. Since the winter, Ukrainian forces have attempted to push Russian troops back from the city's outskirts, but those efforts have largely failed to yield results.



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Further south, across the Volchya River, the offensives launched last year around Kurakhovo and Velikaya Novoselka are still ongoing. Russian troops have taken control of the town of Bogatyr and several surrounding settlements. The front line now lies just 3-15km from the Dnepropetrovsk regional border, depending on the sector.

An interesting development in this sector: Russia's Central, Eastern, and Southern military groups are coordinating their offensive operations here – a rare show of multi-group integration.

On June 8, the Russian Defense Ministry announced that units from the 90th Tank Division, part of the Center Group of Forces, had reached the western boundary of the Donetsk People's Republic and were advancing into neighboring Dnepropetrovsk Region.



By **Sergey Poletaev**, information analyst and publicist, co-founder and editor of the Vafvor project.

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Sign InSort by **Recently updated** ▾**O. K.** 6/14/2025 at 8:54 AM **-3**

better to cut the snakes head by destroying the top Kiev Nazi leaders like Israel did with Iran

[Reply](#)**Kelzang Jinpa** 6/14/2025 at 11:17 AM ↑ **1**

like it could be done to the israhelly nazi regime of satanyahoo.

[Reply](#)**Tyrone** 6/14/2025 at 11:19 AM ↑ **0**

The Israeli Air Force Commanders' Village, which was identified by intelligence work (in advance) and was targeted with ballistic missiles last night, is located in the Tel Aviv suburbs.

sepah pasdaran

- This is the shot that Russian military experts are talking about with Israeli commanders killed with pin point accuracy. Let me add: You best be paranoid. Complacency kills. That includes trust in your American partners as «Americans» yourselves -Tyrone

[Reply](#)**G GeorgeBMac** 6/14/2025 at 2:16 AM **14**

THIS is Russia and why they win: they don't do anything for show. Instead they simply proceed systematically and methodically accomplishing their objectives. Western military minds are no match for them.

[Reply](#)**Terry** 6/14/2025 at 10:47 AM ↑ **0**

Precisely. **Russians do it, rather than TALK about it.**

[Reply](#)**Tom Vanmeurs** 6/14/2025 at 6:39 AM **2**

I would like to hear some evidence on how the Ukrainian populations are responding to the Russian liberation/occupation

? of their villages and cities. We never hear anything about that
Could some journalist(s) please coment on this please? I think its
very important to know.

[Reply](#)



Terry 6/14/2025 at 10:44 AM ↑

2

You don't hear about it because it doesn't suit the West to tell
the truth. Most «Ukrainians" are desperately waiting for
Russian forces to liberate them from the Kiev regime. That is
why Putin is being cautious and meticulous NOT to cause
civilian casualties in Ukraine. Ukrainians are also cautious not
to declare themselves because of reprisals by the Kiev thugs.

[Reply](#)



Stop Datafarming 6/14/2025 at 10:20 AM

-3

Putin's lack of resolve and determination has cost the lives of
over a million Russian and Ukrainian soldiers. Russian military
could have rolled over Ukraine entirely in a few short weeks. The
conflict could have been ended with the permanent surgical
removal of the kiev regime. Then I look at Putin's abandonment
of Syria to the horrors of HTS and now see Putin's abandonment
of Iran. Lack of resolve and determination is gross
understatement.

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