



The Battle of Mariupol

by Robert C. Valentine Mar.19, 2022

civilian perspective

Mariupol is located close to the Russian-occupied Donbas area, in the south-east. From February onward, it has been a scenario of attacks and bombing as Russian troops began encircling it so that by the close of March 3, a ring was established when it was encircled by forces from the north and those who came from the west, from Crimea. Then for day after day, the city which once had a pop. of 500,000, subjected to intense aerial bombardment, has since turned into a city of skeleton buildings, fire and smoke, with no electricity, normal water facilities and heat. It has been assaulted by the Russian 58th Army, and a pro-separatist militant volunteer bunch composed mainly of civilians called the Sparta Brigade, plus a unique brigade of the Russian military intelligence known as the 3rd Spetsnaz Brigade. It is uncertain if there are non-European mercenaries there.

The populace of Mariupol slowly is being strangled into submission. On March 13, it had been reported that a dozen or so civilians were waiting in a bread line when they were struck by machine gun fire and slaughtered in Chernihiv. Among those in line was a 67-year old American, Jimmy Hill; the military is ruthless, and means business. However, the Kremlin said it was a lie. Photographs taken and shown around the world say otherwise, however, because of the censorship imposed in Russia, her people are in the dark. Such is mainly the case for the whole story of battle in all Ukraine.

Much of the S.E. sectors of Ukraine are in Russian hands, but Mariupol, which sits on the coast of the Sea of Azov is strategic. If captured, it would ensure a land route to the occupied peninsula and to the 3rd largest city of Ukraine, Odesa; also



The War Zone. And working like crazy to save lives.

Odessa. When it falls, when?, or can we say if and when, it would facilitate the drive and capture of the prize of the south, the great seaport Odesa, which as of March 19 is under sporadic attack; --nothing on the scale of Mariupol or Kiev, yet. The city of Mariupol has very recently seen an undying stream of cars, some say as many as 20,000 total, mostly composed of women and children, in auto convoy as far as the eye can see driving to escape westward, after numerous prior attempts which because of combat fire, prevented their escape. Those escapees from hell were met with numerous Russian soldiers at check points, who usually confiscated any phone to delete any record of what actually happened. Then, they maybe returned your phone. As of this writing, the number of civilian casualties in Ukraine due to the war is 816, officially by The Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, with 59 being children, however the number of deaths in Mariupol is estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000.

Above Mariupol exists another shell of a town called Volnovakha. It too is of major importance.





The interior of Ukraine is approximately 603,628 square km, the largest country in central Europe outside of Russia, or third largest in all Europe. War shows no mercy when it comes.

Through it runs Highway 20, which connects Volnovakha, Mariupol, two other cities (Kramatorsk, and Sloviansk) and the whole Donbas eastern section, the area Putin on Feb. 21 declared a new sovereign state, actually two: Donbas and Luhansk.

But, standing in their way it is believed, are the 10th Mountain Assault Brigade, the 36th Marine Brigade, the 46th Battalion mainly from the Donbas region, the 56th Motorized Brigade, and 3 battalions, the 25th, 37th, and Azov plus whoever fits into the civil defense which augment the 109th Territorial Defense Brigade. All of them are what compose fighting troops something akin to the defenders of Bataan of 1942. They are at the mercy of shelling, intense aerial bombardment, little food

and water, and no sign of reinforcements. Surrounded and low on everything, a battle is reaching it's crescendo--Exactly as to how it happened in Spring of 1942 in Bataan and Corregidor, except there are no jungles.

Prior to March 17, 2022, while America celebrated St. Pat's Day, there was little frontal Russian assault, however, with the capture of several towns N.W. of Mariupol, that fell on March 13 near Zaporizhia, not only is Mariupol finally coming under frontal attack,



the Ukrainian troops fighting along the line near the town of Volnovakha toward the Donbas Line could be cut off from the West, and liquidated. Once kaput, the Russian forces that were bogged down in the east, can move West, or into Crimea. Of course, Mariupol which by Mar. 19 had some 30,000 less civilians to contend with, because of the allowed convoy, still has over 250,000 holding on. Mariupol, or Marianopol, with its large iron and steelworks, once called Illich after Vladimir Lenin, then Zydanov after a high ranking Communist Party member from 1948-1989, is incidentally named after the second wife of a Crown Prince in 1779 or the Blessed mother of Jesus, Maria, and the Hodegetria icon of the Holy Theotokos, depending on who you talk to. Mariupol also had a religious revival of sorts the past decades, by 2020 having 11 Orthodox churches (7 from the Moscow Patriarchate and four of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine), four Protestant churches, and a mosque. It had several large plants for constructing farm, electric and medical equipment, and was a huge center of heavy industry concentrating on ferrous metallurgy and metal products until the stupid war. Both road and rail are cut as the nearby airport. Through the docks of both Mariupol and Odesa, her ports flowed with Ukraine wheat and other commodities. Once upon a time after WW II, Mariupol was even developed as a health resort. But, all that is changed.

As international correspondent of *BBC* rightly stated on March 19, quoting Lyse Doucet, “Mariupol, which connects eastern Ukraine with the Crimean peninsula...is now on it’s last legs...with the type of cruel medieval sieges.” “Russia wants the recognition of Crimea as part of Russia, once the independence of the East, mentioned [is attained.]” But, right now, Ukraine “wants a cease fire and it wants Russia to pull out all of those forces.”



From December '41 to April of 1942, the Imperial Army of General Homma put the squeeze on Bataan--but not before suffering 7,000 casualties in the first month --followed by Corregidor which fell on May 11, 1942. It was in mid-January of '42 that General MacArthur had sent a long message to the Chief of Staff General George Marshall about lack of supplies and recommended that food be dispatched to the Philippines along various routes via ships. At Marshall's disposal he had a credit of over 10 million dollars from special funds to utilize a rescue. Australia began a transshipment of 3,000,000 rations and a large quantity of ammo, but the ships had difficulty of running the blockade established by Imperial Japan, and much never made it. Ship after ship were either sunk or disabled, few reached Bataan or Corregidor. I doubt the defenders of Mariupol can last 4 months, for they are like those in the Philippines in some military land blockade and once it succumbs, all the Ukrainian forces of the Eastern sectors will have a devil of a time getting supplied to fight on, for as I write, their supplies are already very low.

During the battle of Bataan, the American and Filipino troops held their line against enemy offensive after offensive along the Orion-Bagac Line for almost the entire month of January, 1942, just like the Ukraine troops are holding their lines surrounding their capital and at Mariupol and other key areas. The Bataan defenders fought beneath volcanoes, jungles and ravines, yet those Ukraine defenders have their own lines to hold, scores of streams, melted snow, the wooded forests and, of course the harrowing suburban or urban centers. However, after four weeks of fighting, Mariupol is about to break.

As the world tries to move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic and tries to regain their 2019 level, thus far, the western media has centered on Kijiv, the refugee exodus from all Ukraine and those trying to flee from the eastern sectors. On March 19, the mayor of Mariupol, Vadym Boychenko, issued news to the world that there is now heavy fighting in the center of his city. Some 300,000 plus starving civilians still live there amidst the combat. Roughly 1500 civilians have been killed there since Feb. 25. Several hundred are still entombed alive beneath the ruins of a theater, many of them children, while on Friday, March 18, President Putin held a huge public rally in Moscow, cited the Bible and stated, his heroic troops are there to stop a genocide. If you believe in that, then I got a bridge on sale for you over in Manhat-



tan. Total Ukrainian fighting forces killed is around 2,870 as of March 19 (from Russian Defense Ministry) and some 3,700 wounded. Total Ukrainian fighting force casualties according to Ukraine is around 1,300 dead and over 1,000 wounded. Total Russian troops killed in Ukraine in 2022 ranges anywhere from 7,000 to some 15,000, and from 10,000 to 14,000 wounded. The following is [a link](#) of the early war days in Mariupol when a brave person recorded this while they still had internet power, courtesy of *WarLeaks*.

This next link, unconfirmed as true because of the heavy censorship surrounding Mariupol, comes from the British [Daily Mail](#) and grateful acknowledgment is given for this historical report.

The following is a unique [descriptive](#) in color of the prior battle report. Many thanks to *TomoNews US* for it.

Communication with the city is difficult. According to a *NY Times* report, it claims a city official named Pyotr Andryuschenko said on Saturday (March 19) that Russian forces had taken “between 4,000 and 4,500 Mariupol residents forcibly across the border to Taganrog,” a city in southwestern Russia. That is another similarity between Bataan and the Battle of Mariupol, namely the forceful deportation of civilians, however in the case of the Philippines, there existed incarceration of civilians into prisoner camps. [Following the fall of the entire Philippines, you also had the Bataan Death March.] Another correspondence, from a city Council person of Mariupol seems to collaborate the story of forced starving, deported people, as seen in this *CNBC* late March 19 [report](#).

