

A Sitzkrieg is like a Rose

by Robert C. Valentine

It is hard to imagine that it has been at least 17 days since the Kremlin internally began to regroup. It is April 11, 2022, as I write, the invasion is in earnest, and although the Kremlin's attacks in the north have been disabled, the ferocious tune of war up north is relatively quiet. Five days ago was a period similar to that which occurred in 1939, with this big distinctive *caveat*: it seems we have entered a certain period similar to what is called the Phony War, but a capital has not fallen like the Warsaw of 1939 and that is the main difference.

However, the present time, affords another similarity, a reminder that while the West tries to fortify their positions, they will act like Chamberlain and his sitzkrieg at the end of 1939 before the big blitzkrieg fell. That was a time of holding the lines and surrender leaflets (except in Finland and off Montevideo), that was known as the WW II Phony War, the period before Western Europe fell.

I see an occupying nemesis Force regrouping as it energizes its limbs just like Hitler did for months after Poland fell, from the end of '39 to early 1940. But the time period will not be the same, because according to current military experts, they believe Russia will need 3-4 weeks to refit and regroup, not months and months.

Meanwhile, there will be scimmages here and there--while the Western Allies sit and hope for a peaceful solution. (Don't get me wrong, war has not dissipated as this [link](#) from CNN c. 4/9 shows. Drones, small but mighty, [took a toll](#) on the occupier although the Russians claimed to have captured at least 37 tanks, destroyed 311 "unmanned aerial vehicles"--sounds fishy, the same number the Ukrainians have destroyed--and disabled a radar station and several ammo depots. So far, the number of Ukraine tanks lost to battle is under 100.) Here is another distinction, while the ground forces of the West stay put along the border, world governments are exercising economic warfare.

During this stage yet getting back to the military viewpoint, it is not halting the Kremlin, while Putin is acting like Hitler. He has no intention of giving-in as his forces regroup before he will unleash their awesome Final kill on the Ukrainian southern ports. Here the West is the weakest. The south is so far away from the

north, hence their lines of supply and communication will be stretched to their limits.

During the Phony War, nothing dramatic tipped the scales of war. Militarily the West was too weak in 1939.

The West in 2022 is not weak but on the strategy board of play they cannot move across the real border, and while there exist different reasons for not moving in, it portrays the same end result; namely, the being afraid a leader in Moscow would be crazy enough to crazily order a nuclear missile launch, and hence we see no great frontal attacks from the West. It is *primarily defensive* (first 2 mins best). What we have in mid-April are Southern and Northern areas of operation.

In other words, using WW II parlance, 2 totally different campaigns. Putin knows that *plus* the fact despite the West being in possession of a hugely superior military force, they must stay back across the border in the north. They are an Army with the best tanks, highest technology, and air forces possessing needlelike precision, while all Ukraine, including *their women*, take up battle stations. The reason for sitting back is not the same as in 1939, however, the West is showing the same end result: sadly, there is nothing dramatic to tip the scales of war April-May 2022.

The predicament of the West is that they cannot come militarily to the full aid of Ukraine for reasons of a nuclear blast syndrome. During the Phony War of 2022, Putin has ordered a draft of an extra hundred and thirty thousand, had his fuel depot blown up inside his Russian homeland, heard of two Russian missiles shot down by Ukraine's air defenses over Radekhiv, had one supply ship blown up, and he even saw him losing the strategic high ground around Kiev. He has lost an airfield in the North, lost 311 aerial drones, lost countless aircraft including 74 choppers, seen over 400 Russian tanks wiped out (some say 1,730 armored vehicles of all types, at least 1 to *US volunteers*), and has lost many, many troops showing this is not exactly a sitzkrieg but that is all in the North, where the wily tactics of the mobile Ukrainian has demonstrated a brighter future. All the present day sanctions, however, are too weak to stop the Russian military from exercising Putin's launch in the South.

The world of 2022 is being divided into two distinct worlds of war. The North and the South. The West sees it blindly as one big fat Ukrainian crisis. Nay, that is not the picture our despot sees. Unless some miracle intervenes, he will launch his attack to separate the North from Mariupol and her sister port cities along the

South, all to gain full control of the land corridor in the South. And, the West way, way up north will sit across the border, in their sitzkrieg style flushing in some modern equipment. It is a sitzkrieg, German for a sitting war, sending token measures of kamikaze drones, helmets, body armor, missile and anti-drone hardware, but it is all for the north. CBS [Face The Nation](#) Margaret Brennan accurately said it at the end, what history is demonstrating is a slow bleed of the Ukrainian people (while the south will fall).

Question: During the next 3 weeks or so, what will they send southward to the 20,000 brave Ukrainian army holding their line? They are nearly 780 km (some 480 miles) from Kyiv. The distance between San Francisco and Los Angeles is about 400 miles, nearly a 6 hour drive. But in reality you must add another 290 air miles (469 km) to reach a Polish border from Kyiv.

A direct train trip from Kyiv to Warsaw, Poland via the Kyiv Pass is a 14 hour trip, 429 miles (689 km). So Warsaw to Kyiv to the Deep South? You get the picture. That is about it. Once the “regroup” phase is over, the Russian forces will move [to encircle](#) and annihilate the southern group of soldiers. Moreover, how the brave citizen army in Odesa will handle it to survive is another question of the hour.

I disagree with the assessments that it will take Putin 3-4 weeks to regroup, because by then, it will interfere with Russia’s anniversary celebrations of May 9. In America it may seem like no big deal, but over there it is a very, very big deal. Between now and then, it will be critical for Putin that 80-90% of the land corridor he planned to conquer be attained. With a new commanding general, a ruthless Gen. named [Alexander Dvornikov](#), they must push for encirclement of the southern Ukrainian forces so as to eliminate dangers to his flanks, and to annihilate the thorn at their side.

North of the Sea of Azov exist wide open fields and plains, a complete opposite to the terrain which bottlenecked Putin’s northern forces. Only men with the right [advanced weapons](#) plus the rain and mud can slow his generals down. It is unlikely that a muddy terrain will last beyond 2 weeks; keep an eye on the weather.

Alas, the next 4 weeks will be critical because Putin has to show he has some manner of victory by early May. Only if the Ukrainian forces in the south avoid complete encirclement, and if the West pulls off a miracle of supply and keep the supply route from being blocked for 4 weeks will there be hope of survival for those battling bastards of 20,000. If I were the Russian general staff, I would care less about Odessa, as the Russians spell it, if it is not taken by May 9th. Concentrate on the elimination of his enemy southern Front. Furthermore, do you think Putin will agree to any settlement of peace while people are screaming for his hide due to those recent atrocities of helpless people? Historically, he must show gains to his civilian populace. His ace will come in two steps, eliminate once and for all the southern Ukraine soldiers as a force to reckon with and finish pounding Mari-

upol to submission. Then, consolidate your lines from the so-called new eastern sovereign states to the city limits of Odesa. All by the new target date of May 9. With the collapse of the so-called [southern front](#), he will by May 9 demonstrate to the world his Victory Parade, perhaps parade the captured POWs through the streets of Moscow. A propaganda dream of dreams for him. In his dream, he could care less what the western media will say of him. The collapse of the southern Ukrainian Front, the countless prisoners he hopes to show, the prize of Mariupol, will be enough to show his people that he has not lost, even though it may not be true. It will be discomfoting for him not to capture Kiev, but like I said, it is now a time of two campaigns and the northern campaign is not winnable for him in April or May, and that is the stark reality. If he has a happy victory parade, for a while that will hold off all talk against him in his state-controlled country in explaining the lack of reporting the casualty rates of his “special operation” and why a number of families have not heard from their loved ones in uniform.

In terms of the big seaport city of Odesa, as one *MSNBC* observer pointed out, Gen. McCaffrey, out in the ocean off the coast of Odesa exist several Russian naval warships with long-range missiles (of 1000 mile range) that can target any movement from the outskirts of Kyiv to the South, be they supply columns or mobile armored columns. As it is so happening, Russian warships are already hitting the environs of Odesa. Unless some miracle happens or the West gambles in their supply capability, when the sitzkrieg “in the south” will be over, the western forces in the north across the border will remain in their Phony War status.

The predicament of the West is that they cannot come militarily to the full aid of Ukraine for reasons of nuclear war, as stated earlier. During the Phony War phase Spring of 2022, all things are quite, although many are dying. Once the big drive in the Southeast commences, there will be no Phony War in the south. The southern Russian forces will not be hampered by long lines of supply like in the north but the West way, way up north will still “sit.”

Putin will move with a newly regrouped, reinforced, call it what you will, land army to take the south. No International Red Cross will be allowed to cross the lines. The Northern forces of the Ukrainian army are too weak to mount any campaign to dislodge the Russians in the south. According to this [AP News](#) correspondents Robert Burns and Hope Yen optimistically believe the new Russian commander will not succeed, and regarding U.S. policy in Ukraine, America “will do whatever we can to help Ukraine succeed,” quoting White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, nevertheless, the outcome I believe will not be optimistic for the

South but deeply pessimistic. Pessimistic in the sense, there will be seen extreme brutality and agony that may make the prior hideousness of the North seem like a walk in the park compared to what will be eventually realized the next 3-4 weeks. AND, all the U.S. troops can continue to do, as they have been doing for weeks, is to conduct their **joint military** defensive exercises with NATO troops in Poland for the next 10 years but it will have little effect on the southern lines of battle in 2022--unless some miracle happens. Historically, it is a Consecration that saved Portugal from both a Spanish Civil War and a World War II. During the next few weeks or so, there is the Spring thaw which will make any quick land tank movement an obstacle of major proportion, because of the stinken mud, a hindrance to any encirclement of the allied troops in the south. It may be lightly snowing in Moscow, but not down south. That AP article also stated these words from White House Press secretary Jen Psaki, "there's going to be a continuation (the civilian slaughters) of what we've already seen on the ground in Ukraine and that's what we are expecting." What was not stated is that unlike in the north, which was a victory for the anti-Russian forces, agony and brutality or no agony and brutality, the terrain and the mechanics of warfare are different in the south and southeast and the Ukrainian army are too weak to mount any campaign to dislodge the Russians. There will be in the news all kinds of verbiage that it is likely the **southern troops** will face encirclement when on television we will see the Russian army advance from the East and the South, then the complete encirclement, and then what follows will be determined. Will enough switchblade drones and kamikaze back packs be enough to hold out against the onslaught of a Russian military might? What globe will our future inherit beyond the politics and big talk? **Brave and beautiful women** of Ukraine army are up there within inches of having their lives extinguished, as the men, that makes your heart pour out. The balance will affect everyone over there, the young, the old. Can the day of salvation mean more than well, the war is over and Ukraine is partitioned, with xy casualties and dead. We shall have to stay tuned.

Like a rose, a sitzkrieg is a sitzkrieg by any other name, still a sitzkrieg.