

March 2025



"It's your New York!"

The Rondout Reader

THE MOTHERLAND FALLS



UKRAINE STRIKES BACK!



The RONDOUT READER is fiction.
All references to actual persons, alive
or dead, made for a good story.

By Kevin Ahearn for Dorothy Ahearn II

CAPTAIN BORDERANKO..... HUGH JACKMAN
COLONEL KABAKOV..... STEVEN SEAGAL
CIA DIRECTOR..... LAURENCE FISHBURNE
GENERAL ALLEN..... WHIT BISSELL
“JUNIOR”..... MARK HAMILL

PLUS AN ASSORTMENT OF ALL-STAR CAMEOS

Cover: Instagram post by Юрий Завгороднев





(один)

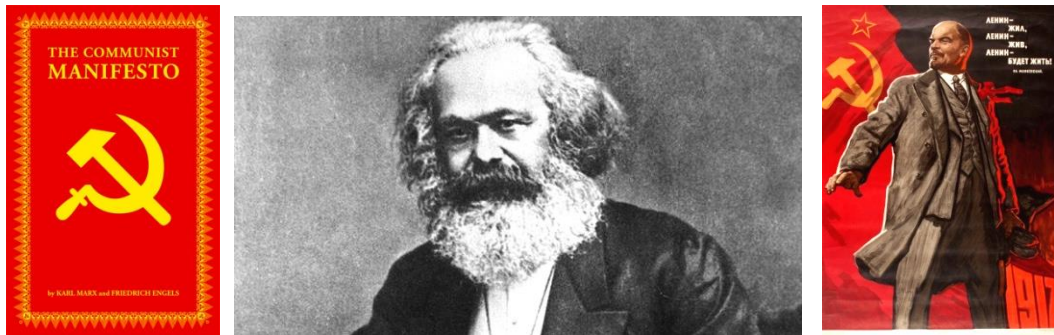


'The fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride.'





'An empire either grows or it dies.'



'History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce.'

Russia has a history of unprovoked aggression. In the 21st Century, Vladimir Putin may be overdoing it.

In 2008, Russia invaded Georgia, a former state of the Soviet Union. The Democracies made noise that soon dissipated.



Then in 2014, Russia invaded Crimea. NATO protested and set stiff economic sanctions. Putin was undeterred.



Had the Russian dictator been inspired by "Peter the Great"?



"The ladies of St Petersburg could not sleep peacefully as long as the Finnish border ran so close"

Didn't he study Stalin's 1939-40 invasion of Finland?



"The very day the war with Finland started, Stalin didn't even feel the need to call a meeting. He was sure all we had to do was fire a few artillery rounds and the Finns would capitulate... There was a false sense of confidence on our side; a few days would pass and we would polish off the Finns."



On March 12, 1940, Finland surrendered ceding 22,000 square miles to the Soviet Union.

"Just enough land to bury our dead," said a Russian General.

At the cost of more than half a million lives, the Red Army had been taught how to fight under winter conditions.

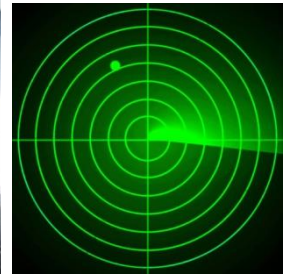
The Nazis had been watching closely. The Russian soldiers the German had met following the conquest of Poland had been well-equipped and well-trained, causing Hitler to reassess the strength of the Soviet Union. The disaster in Finland made up his mind.

Has Russia learned nothing from history?



'The wish is the father of the mistake!'

At 30,000 feet over eastern Ukraine, a pair of Su-27 fighter-bombers readied for their run. Hardly any wind, thick cloud cover; beautiful weather for a bombing...



'Target ahead! no missile activity sighted!

'Radar clear! We've got a "Milk Run"...Wait!

From far below, lurking low to beat radar, a lone MiG-29 suddenly shot straight up, knifing through the clouds, zeroing in...





***'Welcome to Ukraine,
comrades!'***





'The cost of this fight, it's not cheap, but caving new aggression is going to be more costly'

'No more half measures! A sweeping \$33 billion request to fund weapons and provide economic and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, seeking to provide longer-term assistance as the country's conflict with Russia enters its third month.'



'Ukraine's resistance has brought inspiration to the free world and even greater resolve to NATO". President Putin never imagined that the world would rally behind Ukraine so swiftly and surely.'



'This war will go on and on! There's no evidence that Putin plans to end the war in Ukraine through diplomatic efforts.'





'The entire "global international security order" in place since World War Two is at stake if Russia gets away "cost-free"!'

'Not going to happen! The invaders will be victims by the thousands of the "new tech" weaponry!'



'Russia has yet to fully commit to this "Special Operation", holding back the latest, and most expensive weapons!'

'However, May ninth is "Victory Day" and that could change everything!'





'The "strongest possible military response, the strongest sanctions to make the case that this is not tolerable.'



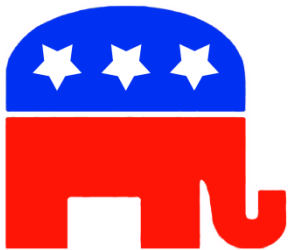
'Yachts! Mansions! These oligarchs with the aid of Putin have become extremely wealthy and bought these assets, which are here in the United States.'



'We shouldn't do anything less because of a threat from Russia. They have already delivered on their threat that killed children and families, civilians and the rest.'



'There's no reason that Putin's viciousness and these ill-gotten gains should just stay the way they are when Ukraine desperately needs the money and it comes directly from Putin helping the Oligarchs.'

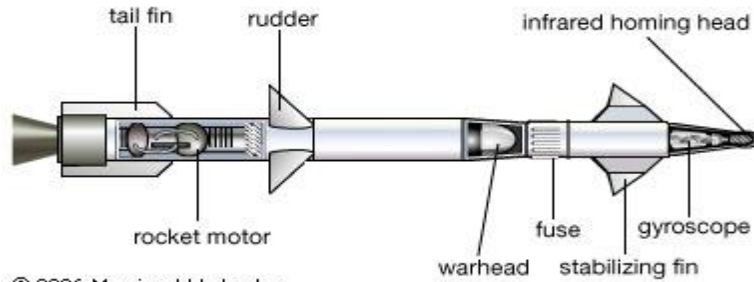


*'No politics! No party platforms!
Neither Conservative nor Liberal!
Not Right or Left!*

*'Defending freedom is **America being America!***



MILITARY WATCH



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UKRAINE'S "NEPTUNE" ANTI-SHIP MISSILE



"Dead men sailing the seas!"



Sixty years ago, was Khrushchev right?

★ MOSCOW



'Our Special Action has had its obstacles, but all will be soon overcome and Russia triumph!'



'We are paying severe penalties! Our flagship sunk by two missiles! No ship anywhere is safe anymore!'



'New, small technology has caught and passed old, large technology! We find ourselves in the wrong war!'





'Our tanks, the weapon that once saved Russia, has become a rolling tomb!'

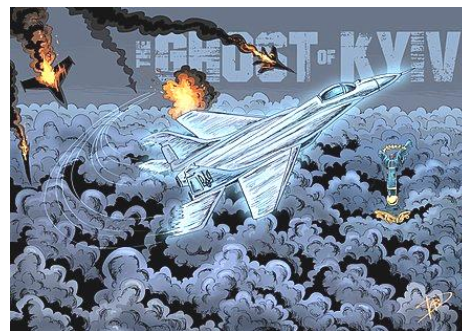
'Ukrainian mothers are naming their newborn "Javelin" and "Javelina"!



*'While our vaunted Red Force cowers before a phantom they claimed shot down **forty** Russian planes! **FORTY!** A propaganda ploy!'*

"Dah," says the enemy. "The 'Ghost or Kyiv' embodies the collective spirit of the highly skilled pilots of the Tactical Air Force Brigade!"

'Who do we have?'

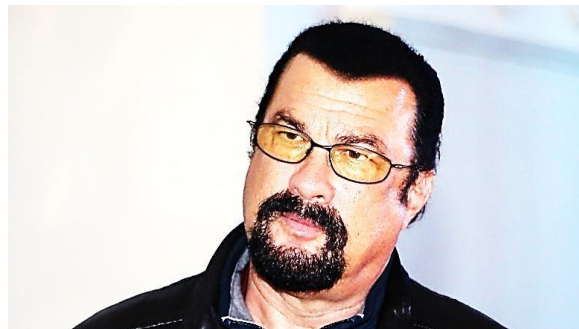




*'Allow me to introduce myself, comrades. I am Colonel Alexander Kabakov, commander of the **Kremlin Knights**, the finest pilots in all of Russia!'*



'Our National Acrobatic team with no combat experience! You will give us "Air Supremacy"?'



'A Twentieth Century concept! It's 2022! "Air Supremacy" can now be achieved from the ground!'





'Your point, Colonel Kabakov!'



'Mr. President, we've got to change, evolve! We must become 21st Century warriors!'



*'Colonel Kabakov, yours is an **idea**, nothing more! But more than anybody else has! I give you a chance to prove it!'*



'Ura!'

ONCE THE VOICE OF “PADDINGTON”, AND TV STAR NOW PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

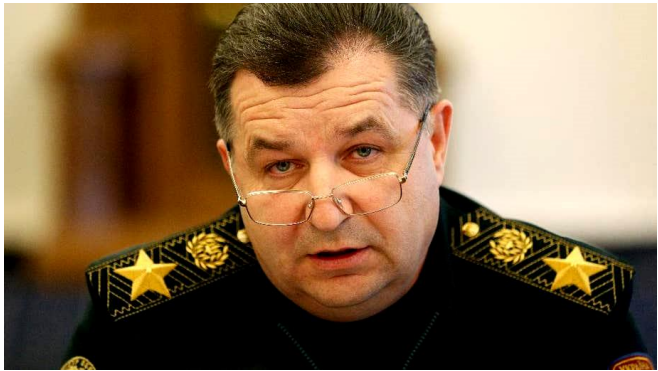


*‘The evil has returned. Again! In a different form,
under different slogans, but for the same purpose!’*



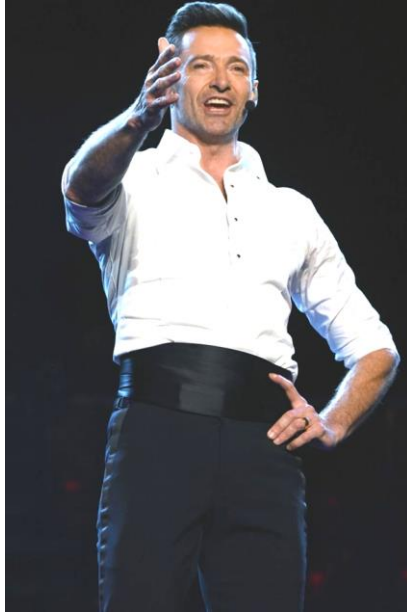
*‘We must have a full and immediate
energy embargo to make it harder for
Russia to finance its military needs.’*

*‘To “de-Nazify” our country!
Russian atrocities are disgusting!
Who are the Hitlerites now?’*



'The bravery and success of our soldiers has made Russia's invasion a "war of attrition"!'

'Which means the war will go on and on! Endless bloodshed! Our children will be fighting and dying versus the Russians!'



'Wait one minute, my fellow Ukrainians! I have a way to end this war!'



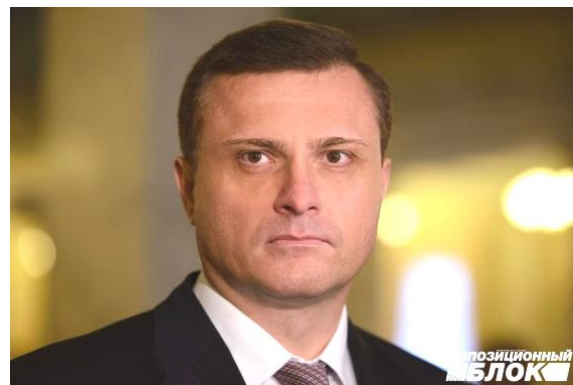
'Ah, the "Ukrainian Eagle"! Please, tell us about this mission!'



'My apologies, Mr. President That must remain my secret!'



'Oh, no! After the "Ghost of Kyiv" fiasco, we have another pseudo-superhero!'



'The "Eagle" is a dreamer! Despite his courage and skills, he has no chance against Russia!'



'Mr. President, my mission will not deploy any weapon that is radioactive, chemical or biological!'

'Glory hunter!'

'Madness!'

'They might be right, Mr. President. Like a busted clock, twice a day. It's your call. Are you, and Ukraine, going to trust me or not?'



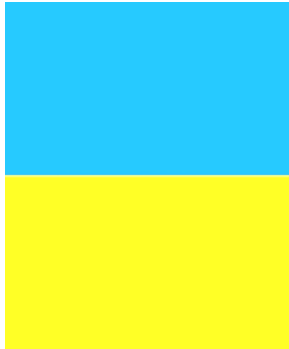
‘Heroiam slava!’



(два)



'My blood belongs to the Motherland!'



'Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, introducing Captain Maxim Borderanko, aka, "the Ukrainian Eagle" and his lovely wife, Anna. They married while he was still in flight school and they've been flying high ever since!'

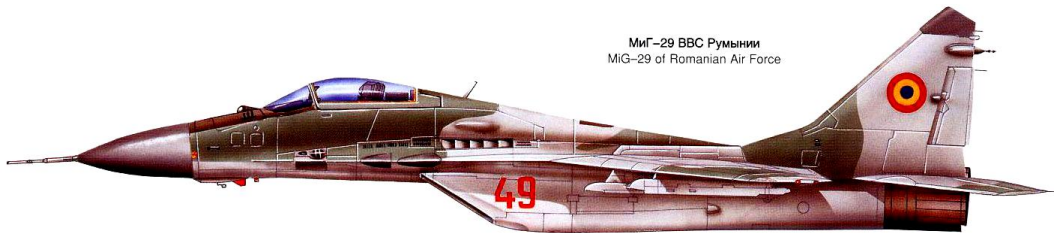


'At a fundraiser for the Ukrainian refugees! Fifteen and a half million. The world loves them!'



*'Just what this war needs:
A hunky superhero!'*

*'That's the "Eagle" alright,
flying his MiG-29!'*



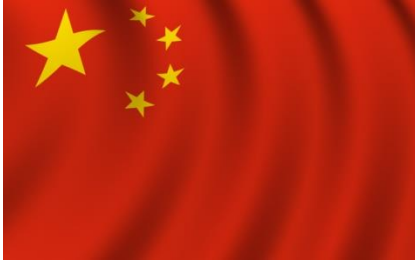
*'A good shave and he'd make
a great **Superman!**'*

*'Naah! The next James
Bond!'*



*'This is war against a Russian Goliath!
Captain Borderanko could be shot down at
any moment, **killed!** What would happen
to his wife and children?'*

*'And when would we get
a new hero?'*

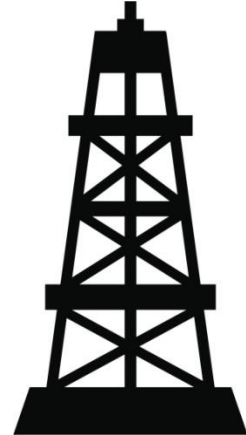


'How considerate of our Russian ally to wait until our Olympics was over before launching his invasion!'



'Stalin called World War Two a "War of engines". In this 21st Century, Ukraine is a "War of missiles"!

'And Russia's lacking! They cannot match the West. As for their lauded land-power... Ukraine is the deathknell of the tank!



*'My president, Ukraine is a battleground...
the Future vs. the Past and the Russians
are losing. Oil and gas will one day be replaced
by wind and solar, and Russia will be left behind!'*



*'You are wise beyond your years, my young
protégé! This wasteful war is a trap! Putin has
awakened the world to unite against him!*

'A trap our China must never fall into!'

Popular Mechanics



Fate of the Tank?



OOOPS! US HAS 8,000+!



'What's really going on in Ukraine and why we should care!'



'The core motivation is just that simple. We know the war in Ukraine is not about saving democracy. Please. We know it's not about protecting the sacred borders of a sovereign country. We know the Biden administration doesn't care about those principles because they run our country and we see how they act.'

'We don't arm Ukraine so we can help the Ukrainians, they are merely unfortunate pawns in all of this. We arm Ukraine so that we can punish Russia. Why? For stealing Hillary Clinton's coronation!'

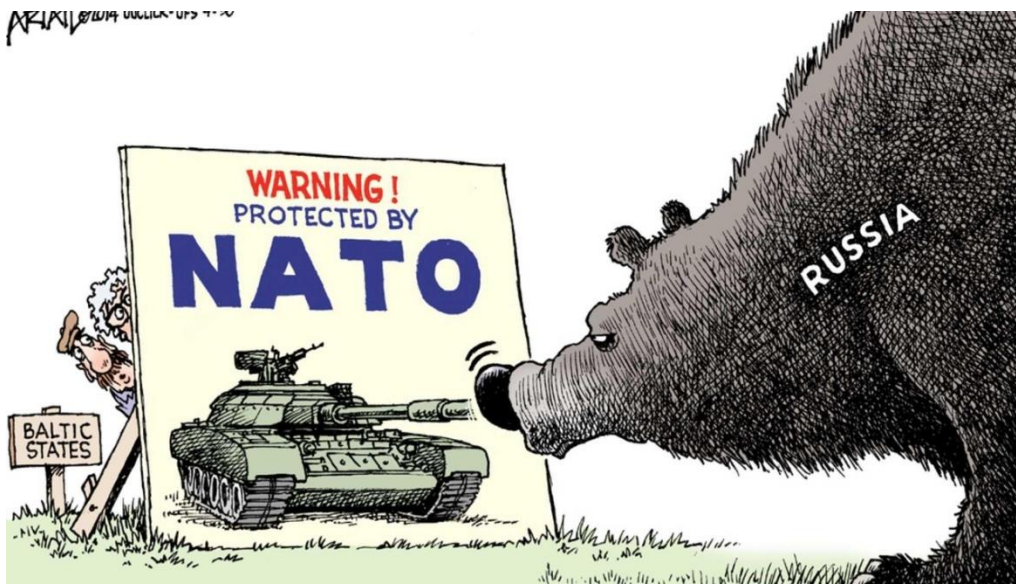
'That's why they are taking us to war with Russia.'



'Americans cannot find baby formula, but we're going to send \$40 billion to another country?'



'We cannot save Ukraine by dooming the American economy!'



'We know for dead certain...that the war is not about helping the Ukraine people, but many more Ukrainian civilians will die. If you want to save Ukraine, its people, its infrastructure, its nation, you would push for a settlement now. You would have done it two months ago, but they are not doing that. They've rejected it out of hand, so that's not their goal.'

UKRAINIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS



'Colonel Kabakov, the latest Ukrainian hero has a secret mission!'

'And he alone knows what it is! Very smart, but foolish!'

'Yesterday the "Eagle" flew to a secret arms factory to inspect "souped up" air-to-air missiles!'

'And nobody knows for what? Ukrainians have advanced to our own borders! This must be stopped!'





'You will inform President Putin of my contribution? But the "Eagle" is just one man! What can he possibly do?'



'Understand, general! We are fighting a war of imagery...and losing! Not enough to kill this "pseudo-superhero"! I want the whole world to watch him die!'



'Do that, Colonel, and Ukraine is done!'





'The war in Ukraine wears on, with no end in sight!'



'The place where Russian tanks go to die!'



'And ships and planes and 70,000 of their soldiers!'



*"Deja vu all over again!"
The Russians invading Finland!*

'And when the invasion went away, Stalin recalled his generals back to Moscow and had them all shot!'



*'Overconfidence begets incompetence!'
Then he ordered an all-out attack and overwhelmed the Finns!'*



*'The war would expand...
nuclear weapons?'*

'We've got to negotiate!'



'Exactly what Mr. Putin wants!'

CIA - LANGLEY, VIRGINIA





*'As I live and breathe, Maxim Borderanko!
The man, the myth, the legend! And what does
the "Ukrainian Eagle" want from me?'*



*'Good morning in America!
Had your coffee yet, Mr. Director?'*

'Fire away!'

*'Have I got news for you! Cause
it's people like you that make this job!'*

'Ever hear of the Kremlin Knights?'

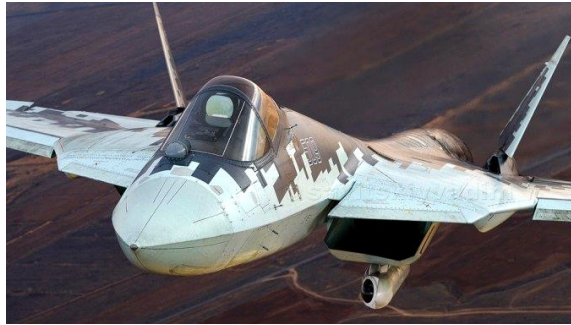
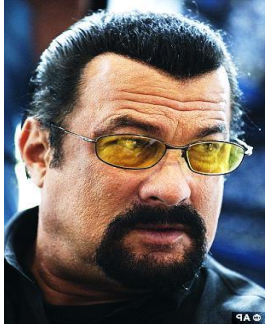


'The acrobatic team?'

'A new player?'

*'Roger Wilco! They've been
moved out of cushy Moscow
by Putin personally!'*

*'Take this very personally, Max!
Colonel Alexander Kabakov is
gunning for you?'*



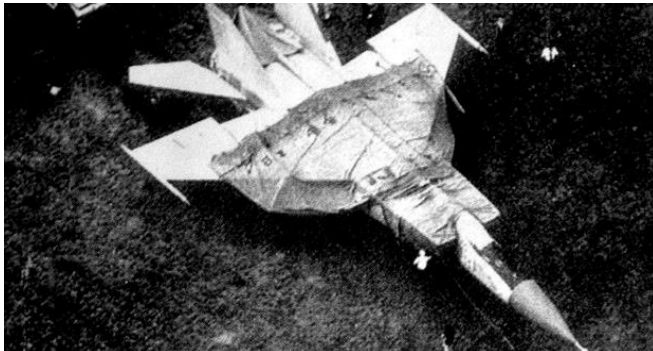
'Trying to scare me, Mr. Director?'

'The Russian military has always been overrated! Before you were born. "Eagle", in 1971, a new Soviet fighter zoomed across Israel at 2,500 mph!'



'And nothing could touch it?'

'Scared us right into the F-15 & F-16! Then five years later, a Soviet defector steals the MiG-25 and lands in Japan!'





(mpu)



'Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heroes!'



'We've been here since 2014!'



'And we're not alone!'



'We need YOU...to help save Ukraine!'

Donate NOW!

At 10,000 meters, the Russian recon drone would identify targets then hit by artillery, a strategy dating back to America's Civil War.



While far below, barely 70 meters off the ground...



'Flying low, really low, takes courage and discipline! Let's do this right!'



*'Sir, got a bogie!
Drone looking to kill!'*

*'Permission to engage, sir!
My very first air combat!'*



'Quick and careful, "Eaglets"!'



*'Piece of cake! Gunnery practice!
Won't waste a missile!'*

At that moment...



'Ura! Ura! URA!
Fledgling fools!'



'Putin claims he invaded Ukraine to protect Russia from NATO aggression! And it backfired, Now Finland and Sweden want to join!'

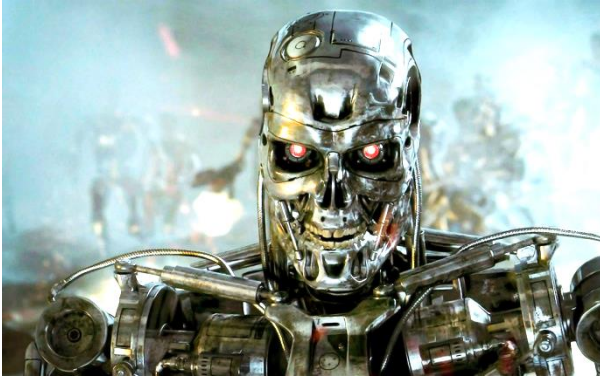


'Russia's loyal ally Belarus is offering their undying support!'

'The same clown who claimed the cure for COVID was Vodka!'



'I am for a single and unified Ukraine.'



© Vitaly V. Ruzmin



'They're unleashing their "wonder weapons" – "terminator" tanks!'

'Putin has an arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons. He uses just one...'



'The Navy is ready, Mr. President!'

'But the rest of America is not!'



'Every day brings us closer and closer to Global Armageddon!'

'More weapons, more killing, we've got to stop this war!'



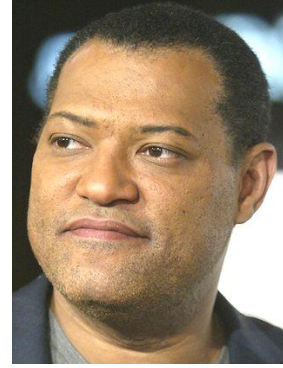
'Mr. Director, I need your help!'

*'The **Kremlin Knight!** He went fishing with a drone as bait!'*



'Tell me about it! What the hell happened?'

'And you bit on it! Then scattered! Why didn't he give chase?'



*'My Russian enemy is smart!
He knows where Ukraine
owns the air!'*

*'Spell it out! You need
what?'*



After the "Eagle" lays it out...

*'Should be a "piece of
cake", right, Director?'*

*"Eagle", who says Ukrainians
lack a sense of humor?'*

*'This's a joke? My country
is being ravaged, my people
murdered, and it's funny?'*

*'I'm sorry! We Americans, we
can't wrap our heads around
"invasion"!''*



*'Try using your heart and
your brain! I want no weapons,
and I don't plan on wounding
or killing a single soul!'*

*'It's the logistics and the
legality of your request!'*

*'Since when did that stop CIA?
All-in or OUT?'*

*'Alright, alright! I'll see what
I can do!'*

AVIATIONWEEK[↗]

& SPACE TECHNOLOGY



UNDERSTANDING WAR IN UKRAINE

Is The Fighter Plane DEAD?

(America wants to buy 1000+ more!)



KGB was “rebranded” into FSB with the fall of the Soviet Union. Their HQ, once “The Center” and the dreaded Lubyanka prison where thousands were executed, also got a much-needed makeover.



‘Commissar, I have an aerial assassination to accomplish and I could use FSB intel. What have you got?’

‘His MiG-29 you already know. His wife and two children...I have the location of their home. If you like, I could order a missile strike on...’

‘Nyet! I will “de-feather” this “Ukrainian Eagle” man-to-man.’

‘A Kremlin Knight indeed! You are aware of his pending Top Secret mission?’





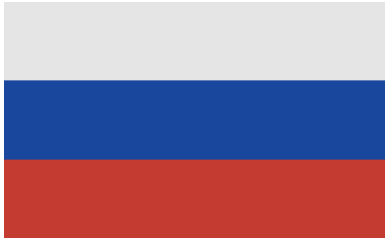
'Better informed than you are, Commissar! But once he and his "Eaglets" take off, I fully expect your COSMOS surveillance to track his every move!'

'Dah, Colonel Kabakov! And once this "Eagle" has been liquidated, your air force ascension will be guaranteed! Air Marshal Kabakov!'



'Power is transitory, Commissar, especially in our pursuits. I'm after history! This quest of mine, once realized, will vault me up high with the greatest of Russian fighter pilots!'

'Not one step back!'



'Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine has already killed thousands of innocent civilians, but ruining the once-"Breadbasket of Europe" will starve millions in Asia and Africa to death!'



'Russia had no choice but to launch its "special operation" to crush the growing threat of Nazism pressing on its borders!'



'Our courageous President is a Nazi? And a Jew?'



'And Ambassador, how foolish must Russia be, expecting us to believe you?'



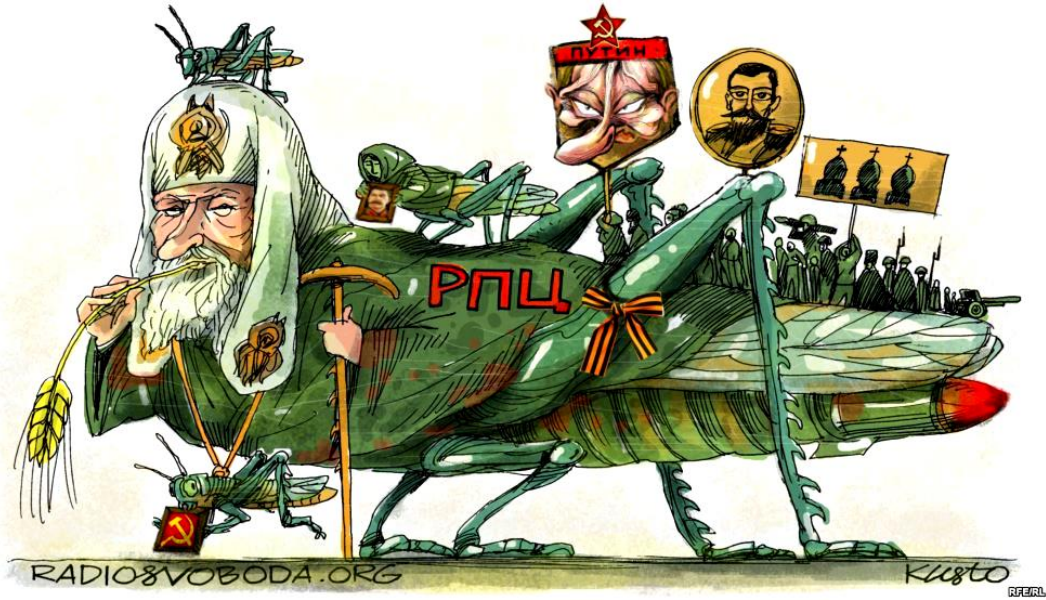
'We have entered Ukraine in part to root out Nazism. Adolf Hitler may have had Jewish blood.'



'Ukrainian bravery and valor has been more than a match for Russian stupidity and incompetence! The whole world is turning against Russia!'



'Always "against Russia"! The West bombards these а́бpeк with weapons to kill Russian boys! Your vile media proclaims us as "inhuman monsters!'



'China, like Russia, has been devastated by invasion. Russia only wants what it believes to be Russian, returned!'



'Iran must also protect itself from the aggressive, anti-Muslim democracies seeking their kind of government!'



*'You can't win what you've already lost!
How many more dead soldiers, how
many more sanctions will it take
till Russia listens to reason?'*



'NATO the aggressor! For years you've been pushing, pushing Ukraine to join you imperialists at our gates! If all the world were against Russia...

Not one step back!'



For Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelenskyy, the TV fantasy that helped make him President was coming closer and closer to reality.



'We must fight until we clear our land of the occupiers and guarantee Ukraine's security. For the Russians, all these victories - the occupation of Crimea or Donbas - is very temporary. And all this will return. 'This is our territory!'





'Putin has gone mad! Georgia, Crimea, he's thinks he's Peter the Great, trying to recover the Russian Empire!'

'More like Stalin! Throwing his troops into a caldron, nearly 80,000 dead! Russia is being unmasked...a Third World, a third-rate nation!'



'Our troops have performed heroically and effectively. Putin's "Empire Plan" has turned into a giant strategic mistake!'

'Good news is bad news! The more success we achieve, the more desperate Putin becomes!'



*'We must ground the "Eagle"!
If his Top Secret mission is a
success, God only knows
what Putin will do!'*

*'No! We stick by him. All Ukraine
awaits his "war-ending" flight! The
guy's a jet-powered rock star!*

*'With the Kremlin Knight
on his tail!'*

*'My money's on the "Eagle"!
Yours?'*



The next step to take?

In 2006, Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelenskyy had been a champion, the “People’s Choice” – A winner on *Dancing with the Stars*!



Tea with the Queen was nothing like this!





IV

(чотири)

THE RED TYRANT'S "ALTERNATIVE REALITY"



"I HAVE BROUGHT PEACE, FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND SECURITY TO MY NEW EMPIRE!"

VICTORY DAY



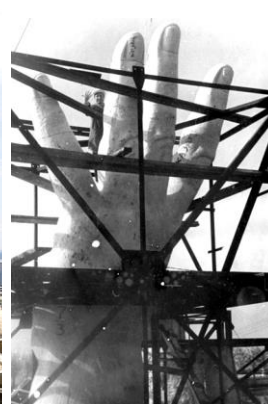
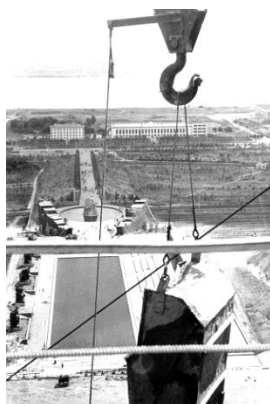
‘NOBODY AND NOTHING WILL STOP RUSSIA ON THE ROAD TO STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.’

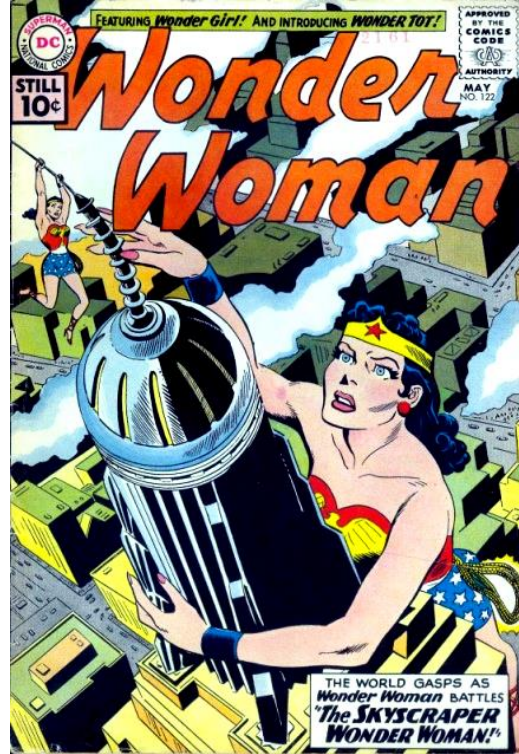
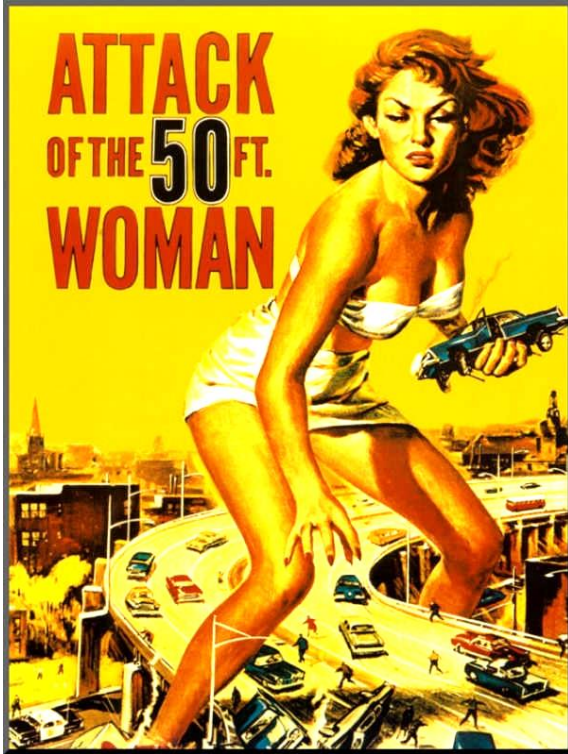


День Победы!



Behold me, world, on this day I was created for!





No American fantasy me... I am real!



And my very first goal...



'She must be taller than the Statue of Liberty!'

And I am indeed!



'Head and shoulders over "Miss Liberty"!



*'Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free...'*

*Be in awe of me, the uncrushable might of the
Russian people!'*



Just after dawn, the Top Secret ordnance arrived at the “Eagle’s” base.



‘Here you go, “Eagle” 24 custom-made missiles with your favorite colored warhead!’

‘Well done, Sergeant! My team will load ‘em up. And then we’re outa here!’



Addressing his men, he found himself *imagining*...



'I'm the best at what I do, but what I do isn't very nice!'



'Together, against insurmountable opposition, we are going to give this "Motherland" an indelible splash of our colorful resistance!'



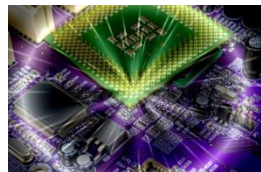
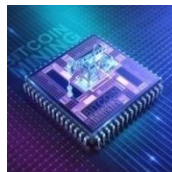
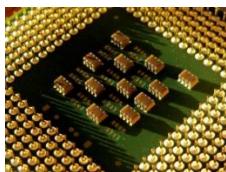
“Schools, hospitals, museums, Putin is out to destroy Ukraine as a culture!”



‘With a “Potemkin Army”! Without Western tech, he’s got a last century force!’



‘Sanctions will keep him from getting any more! Very soon Putin will be very desperate!’



‘Ukraine has become s “war of warheads” and the West has got the best!’



‘And now Ukraine wants Mobility Artillery Rocket System, sounds very dangerous!’



'The vaunted Russian air force has been a complete mystery! As yet unable to achieve "air superiority"!

'Already the Russians have lost hundreds of aircraft to shoulder-held missiles! They're holding back their best!'



'The longer this "special military operation" goes on, and the deeper we sink into it... How can we step away from a European war?'

'Exactly, Mr. President! Let's not rush into any further deals. Caution! We're making history here!'



*'We are not makers of history. We are made by history.
Things have never been more like the way they are today in history.'*



*'Let me be clear. Innocent civilians are
being killed – **Mass murder!** The United States
will do everything in our power to stop it!'*

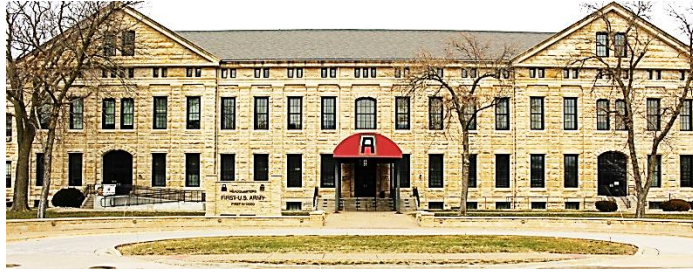


*'Putin believed he could bully, strongarm the
democracies into inaction. Instead he **NATO-ized**
all of Europe. United against tyranny, we will win this war!'*

VOGUE



UNIQUE – UKRAINE!



Colonel Kabakov, the "Eagle" and his squadron just took off!

'A "Victory Day" mission! I surmised as much!'

'Ordnance?'



'Modified K100s! But I don't know how or why.'

'Direction?'



'Probably southwest for the Donbass----!'

'General, general?'



'Colonel Kabakov...?'



*'General, your conversation has concluded!
For the rest of your life! You're under arrest,*

High Treason!'

CIA - LANGLEY, VIRGINIA



SOMEWHERE OVER EUROPE



*'Gentlemen, you have your
COSMOS coordinates!'*



*'Five by five! Powering up the
laser for a clean shot!'*



*'May the **SPACE FORCE** be with us!'*

"The Motherland Calls"



War memorials dot the globe, but none can compare to me, rightfully so. I commemorate the biggest battle in the biggest war in all of history!

SUNDAY, 21 JUNE 1941



*'When we think of new territory. we must think of Russia.
Destiny itself points the way there.'*

The invading force was larger than the armies of Alexander the Great, the Caesars, and Napoleon Bonaparte *combined!*



An invincible blitz swept across the Soviet Union only to be stopped at the very gates of Moscow!

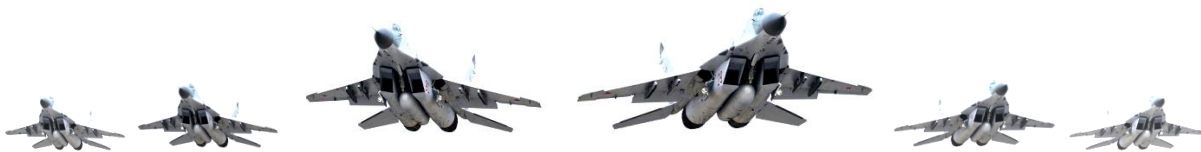




Again in 1942, the Nazis launched another huge offensive aimed at cutting Russia in two along the Volga.

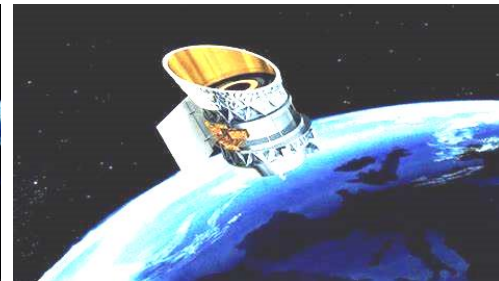
The German's 6th Army of more than 300,000 soldiers, supported by their Axis allies came to the city named after our leader.

*This was our **STALINGRAD!***

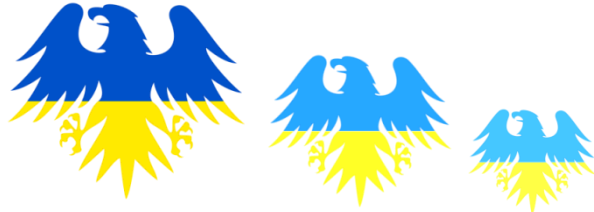


Fully armed and fueled, the "Eagle's" squadron took to the air!

In full view of the "eye above the sky"! And then...



From FSB "Center" in Moscow...



*'Commissar, one minute
COSMOS had the "Eagle"!
And then...'*



*'What do you mean the satellite
suddenly flashed...blinded by...
the cursed Americans!'*



**'World War Three has begun!
On VICTORY DAY!'**

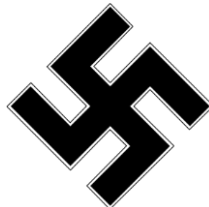


Russia will now 'demilitarize' **NATO**. The special military operation in Ukraine is now over'



*'The West's supply of weapons to Zelensky's troops means it is now a global conflict We are being forced to demilitarise, not just Ukraine but **NATO** as a whole. Why am I talking about this? It was not only Smerch MLRS with cluster munitions that struck Donetsk. The strikes were carried out with... American M777 howitzers.*

'And they are killing Russian soldiers!'



'The Ukraine President and his Nazi fanatics have launched an international conspiracy!'



'To turn all the world against Russia!

'Not one step back!'

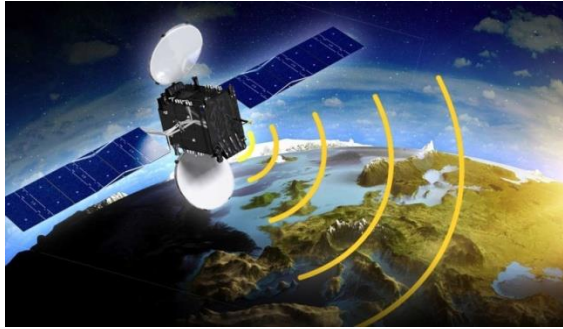
At 30,000 feet at 650 MPH...



*'My brave "Eaglets", against National policy
and presidential orders, I am flying into Russia!
Could be a one-way mission!
If you'd rather not, now's the time to drop out!'*



'Heroiam slava!'



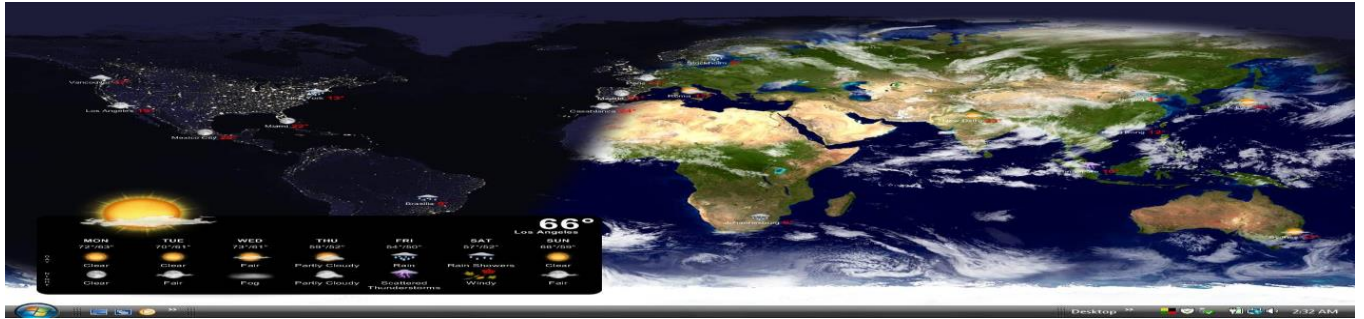
*'The "Eagle's" turned north.
He's flying into Russia!*

*'Borderanko's gone rogue! Zelensky
promised he's never attack Russia!'*



*'Attack what? Buturtinovka air base?
An ammo depot? A brigade of tanks...?*

'Oh, no! Don't tell me!'



*'Only one call to make, sir!
He's heading for the statue!'*



*"The Motherland Calls"!
The very soul and spirit
of the Russian people!'*



'You maniacs! God damn you all to hell!'





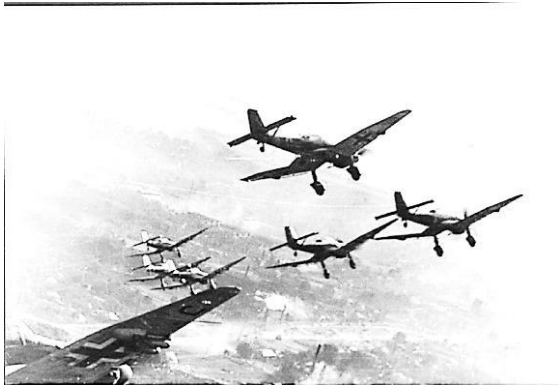
V

(П'ять)



Volgograd is my city! Originally Tsaritsyn, Stalin renamed it for himself which made Hitler obsessed with conquering it!

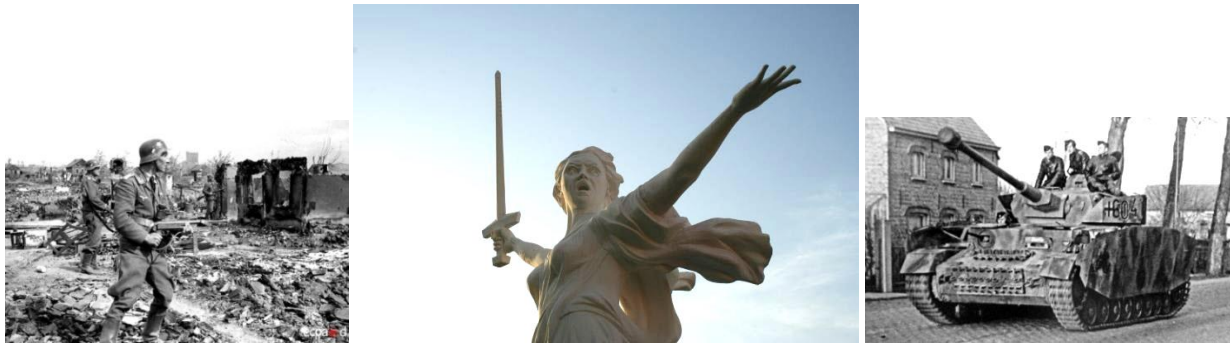
The battle began on Aug 23, 1942 with a Luftwaffe bombing that killed more than 30,000!



Stalingrad would burn for 200 days!



On came the infantry and the tanks!



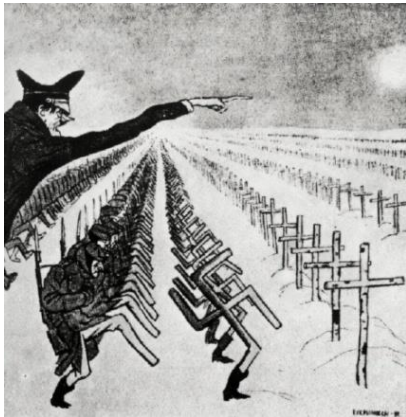
All the world was watching! The fate of civilization hung in the balance!



“General Winter” changed everything...



Overconfident, arrogant “Master Race”! From the very beginning, Stalingrad was a trap! And the 6th Army and its allies marched right into it!



The trap closed. The beaten Hitlerites surrendered.

STALINGRAD STATISTICS

RUSSIAN DEAD 1,520,000+

NAZI DEAD 950,000+

The West never fully respected the immense Soviet sacrifice! America is still feeling its Civil War. The Battle of Stalingrad cost more than three times as many lives.



And you wonder how Russians feel?

NOT ONE STEP BACK!'

Meanwhile in Moscow...



“High altitude turbulence” canceled the flyover, but not the celebration.



‘In Ukraine, Nazi ideals still exist!’



All was going well until the FSB Director brought troubling news.



Within minutes...



At 70 meters, forty minutes from the target...





'Are we where I think we are?'



'Dah! Welcome to Russia, "Eaglets"!'



"The Motherland Calls" and we "Eagles" answer!"

Russian Air Defense went on **Red Alert!**



'The Ukrainian "Eagle" and his squadron have flown into Russia!'



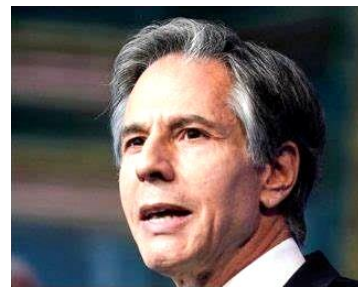
*'The Stalingrad Memorial!
They'll blow it to pieces!'*



*'And the legacy of a million
heroic Russians!'*



*'Can the Russians, can we,
can anybody stop him?'*



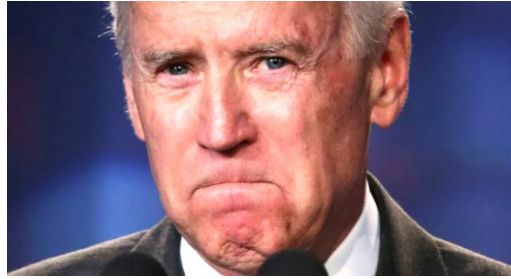
*'Mr. President, I suggest we go
to **DEFCON TWO!**'*



'At least 100 million dead!'



*'For the sake of a damn statue, we're
going to blow up the world!'*



*'Not on my watch! Get me Zelensky and Putin!
And two interpreters **now!**'*

Barely 200 feet off the ground, the "Eaglets" flew north for Volgograd!

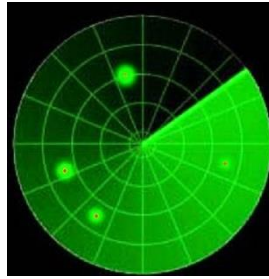


*'Eyes straight ahead, young Eagles!
We'll give them a wave on the way back!'*





'Dah, sir ! We're wait...on my screen!'



'Russian SAMs! Closing on us!'



Down to four, the squadron flew on.



'Russian news service reports that Ukrainian air force jets have penetrated Russian air space, heading for "The Motherland Calls"!

Journal of the Air Force Association
AIR FORCE
MAGAZINE



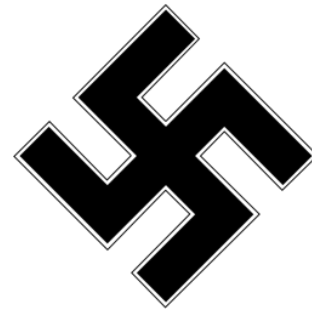
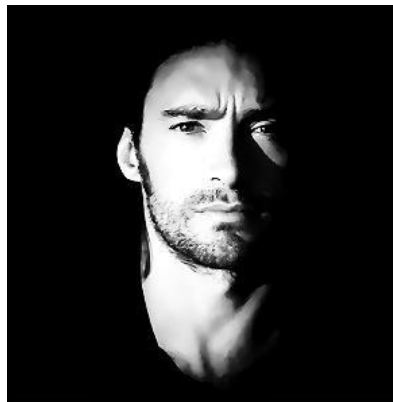
21ST CENTURY
“AIR SUPERIORITY”



*'The Ukrainian "Eagle",
A pseudo-Nazi Terrorist!'*

*'A hero striking back at
Russia!'*

*'But not on my orders! He
promised not to hurt anyone!'*



*'A Ukrainian "promise"? If
the Motherland falls, I promise
to destroy Ukraine!'*

*'And start a
world war!'*

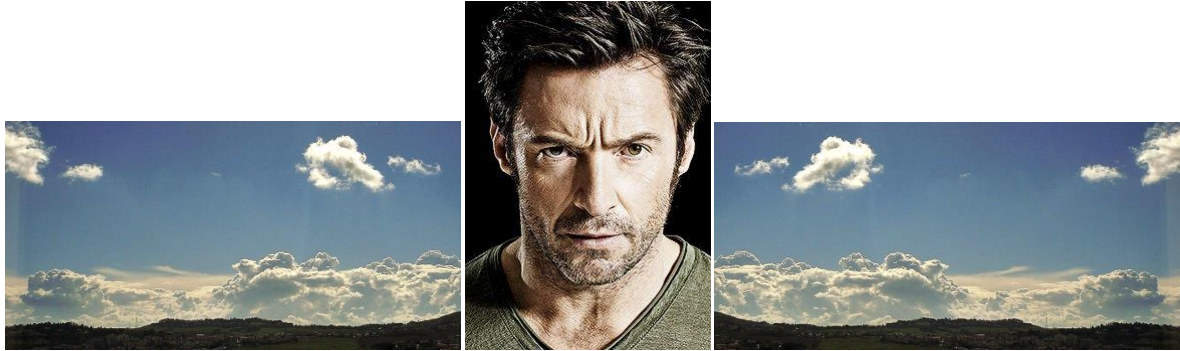
*'Neither Russia nor Ukraine
can win anything! We must have
cease-fire!'*





*'An aerial duel for the soul of the Motherland!
Oh, if only Winston Churchill were watching!'*

At 70 meters, 10 minutes from the target...

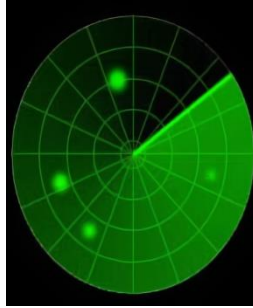


*'Turn on wing wi-fi cameras!
I want the whole world to see this!'*





'Oh, no! On my screen!'



'Missiles locking on...'



Forty kilometers away at 10,000 meters...



'Blasted faulty missiles! We should have gotten them all!'

Two minutes to target...

On computer monitors around the world...



'My God!'



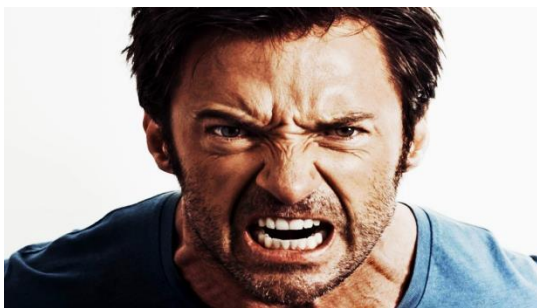
'This could be the beginning of the end!'



'Not even in Prime Time!'



'If the Motherland falls, head for the shelters!'



'I've got her top, "Junior"! You've got her bottom!'



'Like hunting wild boar at the mouth of the Dnister!'



'Glory to Ukraine!'



'Together to victory!'





VI

(шест)



'We're Russians!'



'We are Ukraine!'



I do not stand alone.



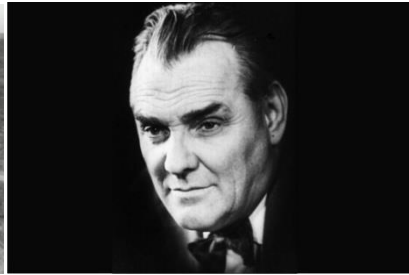
Beneath me are the remains of nearly 35,000 unknown Russian heroes. This is sacred ground!





A poster begat me! Created and printed in the first year of the Great Patriotic War! That's the wife of the artist Irakli Toidze--"The Motherland Is Calling Us!"

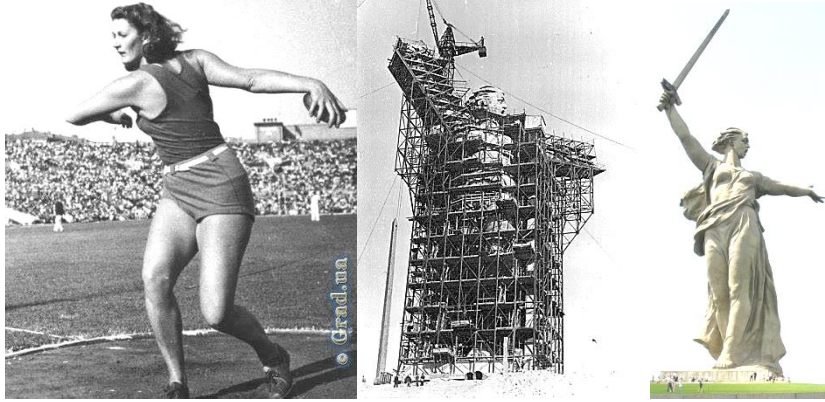
My construction began in 1957 by the sculptor Yevgeny Vuchetich and engineer Nikolai Nikitin



My face, of course, is that of the artist's wife!



The French Revolution had a profound influence!



My body, it is said, was sculpted from an Olympic athlete, but truth be told, mine is the body of Valentina Izotova, a common coffee waitress. I am a woman of the people!

Every year more than two million people visit Mamayev Kurgan Park, but I am not the only star of "Heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad"!



The West never understood. They glorify the Battles of Britain and Alamein, D-Day and the Bulge! The Royal Air Force, the French Underground, and George Patton won World War Two?

And then there're the Jews and their Holocaust!



Six million! Six million! Their war's magic number!



The heroism and sacrifice of the Red Army ended the Holocaust! If not for Russia, the Jews would be extinct in Europe!

The Nazis killed twenty-eight million Russians! That's the number the West refuses to honor!

Best times to visit me is during mild weather – May, September, and October.



Whaaaat? Who dares?



*'Mission accomplished!
Head south on afterburners! We're
going home!'*

'Ukraine, here we come!'





'Missiles fired at the Motherland!'



'This war just got a lasting image!'



'So did Armageddon!'



'Ukrainian terrorists! They must die...whatever the cost!'





Ukrainians! I should have known! We've been at each other's throats for more than a thousand years!

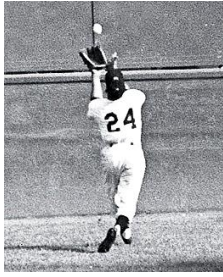




The modern nations of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus all claim their cultural ancestry to Kievan Rus -- a mediaeval principality. In the 13th century, the Mongol invasion led to its downfall.



In the 19th century, the Russian Empire started to suppress Ukrainian culture and language in an attempt to assimilate Ukrainians into Russian culture. The Russian Empire began moving ethnic Russians into present-day Ukraine in the 18th century. This process continued into the Soviet period. As a result, the Russian population in Ukraine increased from approximately 3.5 million in 1917 to over 34 million by 1989.



'Brace for impact! This is the biggest live TV event since...'

On January 22, 1917, the Ukrainian Central Rada declared Ukraine's autonomy within a federal Russian state. On November 2, 1917, the council issued the "Declaration of Independence of Ukraine" and proclaimed the nation's sovereignty. A few months later, it proclaimed the establishment of the Ukrainian People's Republic.



*'The greatest artistic catastrophe since an earthquake destroyed the Colossus of Rhodes!
'That was in 653 A.D!'*



In the Soviet-Ukrainian War (1917-1921), the Bolsheviks defeated the national government in Kyiv and established the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Ukraine then joined hands with Russia to become the founding member of the Soviet Union in 1922.



Ukraine became the “breadbasket” of the new nation. In return, Ukraine became industrialized. Factories were built, and the agricultural sector modernized. Ukraine then became a major producer of coal, iron, and steel.

During the 1930s, despite harsh conditions, the republic experienced relative prosperity and rapid industrialization. Russia made Ukraine!



“The Motherland Calls” is a fraud!

Stalin’s rapid industrialization came at a great price. He sold our wheat to pay for factory machinery. Ukraine was under the grip of a man-made famine that claimed the lives of nearly 3.5 million people.



‘The Ukrainian “Holocaust” – 3,500,000 dead!’



‘The missiles are zooming in, closer and closer, and when they slam into “The Motherland Calls” we will have the most incredible aerial climax since...’



The murderous Hitlerites invaded and Ukraine greeted them like long lost family!



The Nazis offered Ukraine independence from the Soviet Union!



Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers joined the Nazis to fight Russia!

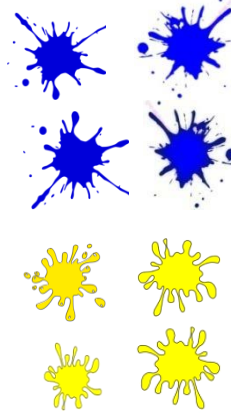


That Nazi blood still flows throughout Ukraine!



*Ukraine deserves nothing less than the
point of my sword!*





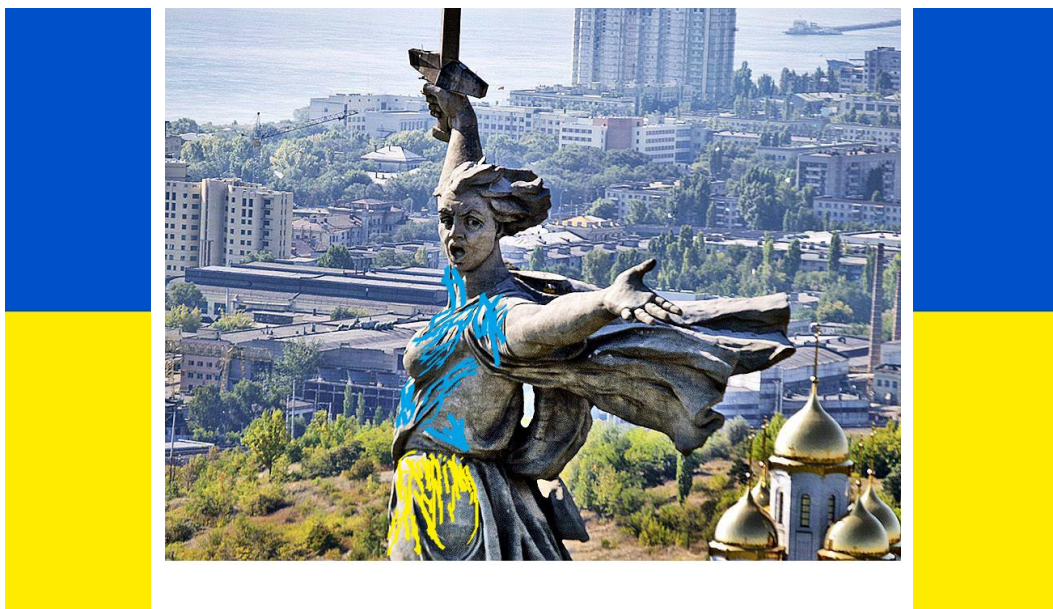
WTF! *On Victory day!*



'Madness!'

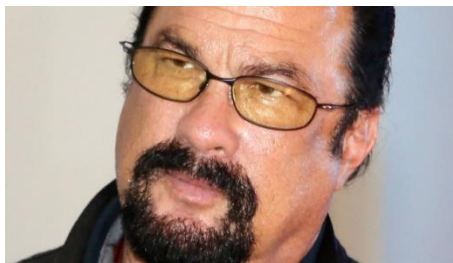


'Genius!'





'Ukrainian "Wardrobe Correction"!



'The Ultimate insult...from Ukrainian Nazis!'



'The dawn of a new age!'



*'Hot intel fresh from space!
That's two "statue-painters"
and six very angry "Knights"!'*

*'Confirm receipt, Director!
They should be within range
in minutes!'*



*'Good hunting, Captain! And tell "Eagle"
I said so!'*

'Copy and will comply!'



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN



CYBERWAR

(It's Already Raging!)



*'Hold tight, **Kremlin Knights!** Those two Nazi MiGs think they can escape! Nyet, we will catch and destroy them!'*



*'The color of **Victory Day** used to be red, but not this one!'*



*'The Russians were stunned!
Suddenly, in full color, their
invasion of Ukraine has
come home!'*

*'And where is their "ruler"?
Russia's daring leader
doesn't dare show his
face!'*



*"When things go wrong,
cowards hide, much like
Stalin when the Nazis invaded!"*

*"Or Trump on January 6th!
Yes, Vladimir, the "Motherland
Calls" is calling for you!"*





“The Motherland Calls” was created to honor the heroes of Stalingrad, the biggest, the longest and the most deadly battle in all history. Once the Motherland called for all Russians to dedicate their very lives to stand up against Hitler’s undefeated legions!

‘Now dressed in Ukrainian blue and yellow, who is the stone lady calling for now?’





VII

(Cim)

'I'M ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO FATE AND THE CITIZENS OF RUSSIA THAT THEY'VE TRUSTED ME TO BE THE HEAD OF THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.'



*да иди ты! What have the
Ukrainian thugs done to me!
I've been defaced, disgraced! Disrespected!*



*The Heroes of Stalingrad humiliated by cowardly
Nazis! What will become of me now? Russia, all of
Russia, hear me!*

Oh, make Ukraine pay! Make the whole country look like old Stalingrad!



Twenty minutes from home at 70 meters...



*'Ease off the afterburners, Junior!
Or we'll either melt the engine blades
or run out of gas!'*

*Maybe, but not until we're over
Ukraine!'*

*'But the **Knights** will catch up
us, won't they?'*

*'I've got a bad feeling
about this!'*



“Mother Russia” decorated with the Ukrainian flag! What the hell do we do now?’



*‘A big bottle of aspirin!
Cause Putin’s got a
screaming headache!’*

*‘Plus a very big can of paint
remover! It’ll take months
to clean her up!’*





As the **Kremlin Knights** gained on the fleeing Ukrainians, Alexander Kabakov imagined ranking with the great Russian aces.



*'We have "supersonic cruise"! Our enemies do not. We'll be in range in mere minutes. I will do **all** the shooting! The "Eagle" is mine!'*

COSMOPOLITAN



'We thought "Mother" was riled up before, but now?'



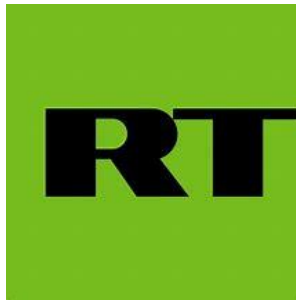
'Yet another woman exploited!'



'The face that launched a thousand megatons!'



'Lipstick on a pig!'



'Russia is engaged in a 'holy war' against the army of "the Antichrist"!'



'Growing up, during all my youth, I've been preparing for this war we see today. This is the holy war our saints and elders spoke of! When I was reading Islamic scriptures, and Christian scriptures, I studied the Bible, the Koran, and Torah ... From all these scriptures, I know that we're facing the war against the devil's army, against the army of al-Dajjal, the Antichrist.'

'This "Eagle" is the herald of the Antichrist! All forces and units fighting on Russia's side is the army of Jesus, Isa Alaihis Salam! We are fighting against everything that is unnatural for a man! Underneath this democracy of America is the main enemy of mankind – Satan!



'Oh, my! And what of the West?'



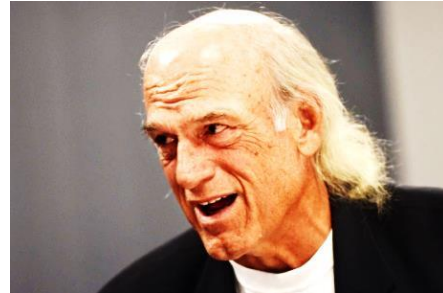
'The United States and Europe will fall not because they are cold, or have no gas. They are cold because they follow European values. The most High will warm them up on judgment day, in hell!'



'The Islamic countries lack the courage to "fight back" against the U.S. and NATO like Putin. The law should be changed to allow foreign fighters! Arabs, Greeks, and Serbs are eager to fight on Russia's side because they still have God in their hearts, they don't want to live under LGBT flags.'



'Meanwhile in America, conspiracy theories are blooming!'



*“The Ultimate Holy War!”
The “End of Days” begins
with the “Motherland”!*

*“Victory Day” no more. Today
is “a date that will live in infamy!”
Doomsday!*



As the “Eagle” neared Ukraine, heavy clouds rolled in...





*"Junior", listen closely.
When we cross into Ukraine,
cut your engine, and
go to glide!*

'But, sir, we...

At that moment...

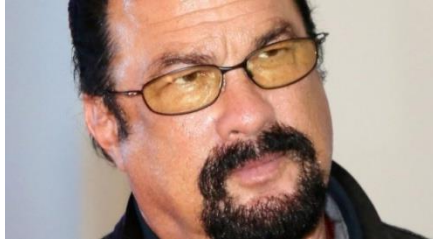


*'Ah, the "Ukrainian Eagle"!
If you lower your landing gear
and surrender, the **Kremlin
Knights** will escort you
back to Russia!'*

*'Colonel Kabakov, you're
daydreaming, a Russian
malady! Respect the "Motherland"
and get out of Ukraine!'*

*'It's all over, pseudo-hero!
Give up and live! There
is no escape!'*

*'Do your worst, pseudo-Nazi!
I will always be a part of
the immortal Ukrainian spirit!'*



'До свидания! Fool! Together we would have ruled the sky!'

'Glory to Ukraine! Glory to-----!'



'No!'



'The New World Order has failed. The world is now experiencing the final death throes of a dying elitist regime!'



“Robber barons” who stole their wealth from indigenous peoples!



‘The West is desperately clinging to its ill-gotten loot!’



‘This yellow and blue protest will be old news in a week!’



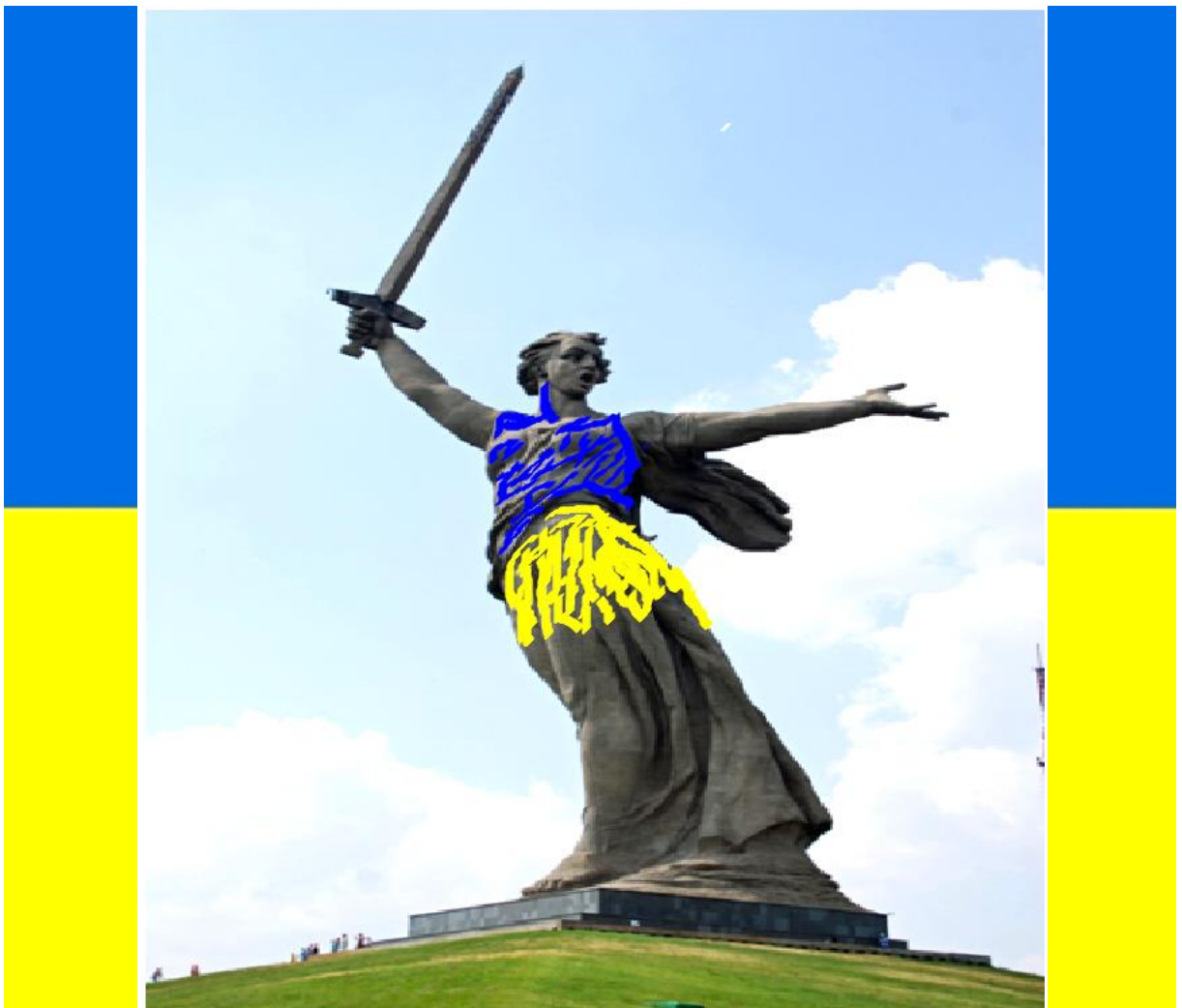
‘China, India, Saudi Arabia, Iran – our true friends! Your “special op” will make us MORE powerful!’



‘Inherently racist and neo-colonial, no matter how much Western and supranational elites strive to preserve the existing order of things—a new era is coming, a new stage in world history.’

Woman's Day

The New "MOTHERLAND"



Fashions by 

In pursuit of the last "Eagle", the confident Russians flew into Ukraine, and not long after...



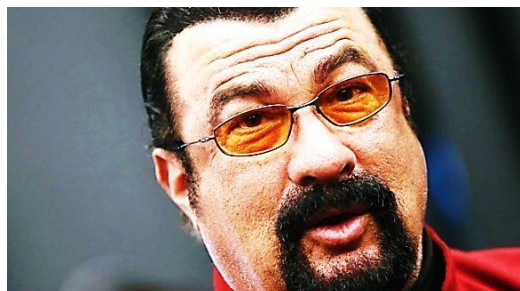
*'Ura, Ura, URA! The "Eagle" is dead!
Pieces of his plane and his body
raining down on his beloved country!*

*'And you, "Eaglet"? 'So you cut your
engines to beat our heat-seeking missiles!
I'll gun you down like a dog!'*



*'This dog's got brave and fearless friends!
Welcome to Ukraine, Comrades!'*





'Nyet! NYET! AAAAAAAAH!'



*'Congratulations, Junior!
You're the senior "Eagle" now!'*

'Sir, I-I don't know how to...!'

*'You'll learn soon enough!
The spirit of Ukraine will be
with you...always.'*

'-----!'



After a dead stick landing on a Ukrainian highway...

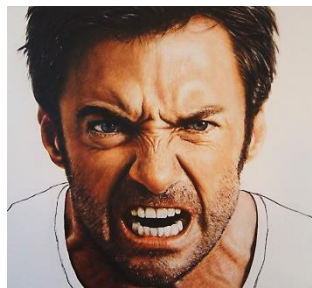
The nation went wild!





*'The Russians killed the "Ukrainian Eagle"
The "Eagle" shamed the "Motherland"
in yellow and blue!*

*'In this "David vs. Goliath Death-Match",
did the "Eagle" die in vain?'*



*'Never! Captain Maxim Borderanko's
audacity awakened the imagination
of the world!'*

*'And gave us the origin of
a new hero! Russia is
THE Supervillain!'*





'We offered A-10s which had great success in Iraq, but Ukraine wants F-16s!



'Anti-aircraft missiles have made the low-flying A-10 vulnerable! The F-16 has never lost a dogfight!'



'Remember. Ukraine gave up their nukes in exchange for promises of security. We see how that turned out. This is why we must NEVER give up our guns to any government.'



'Russia's invasion of Ukraine defined by Pop Culture! Can't anyone see where this is going?'



'What now? We're looking for the light at the end of the tunnel and can't find one anywhere!

'The Russians will not withdraw and the Ukrainians refuse to give up an inch of their land!

'Will the killing and destruction ever end?'



'United Nation members, and people of the world!

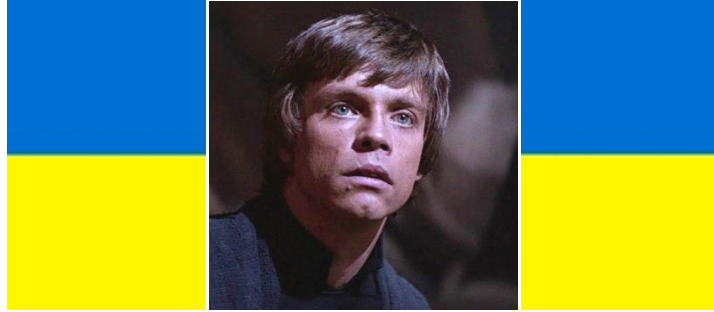
For more than half a century, "The Motherland Calls" has proudly commemorated Russia's courage and sacrifice in their victory at Stalingrad.'



'When suddenly, President Putin turned history on its ear and without any provocation, invaded Ukraine!

*'Brutal, merciless, murdering men, women and children! Once brave heroes who fought and beat the Hitlerite thugs, the Red Army has become the **New Fascists!**'*





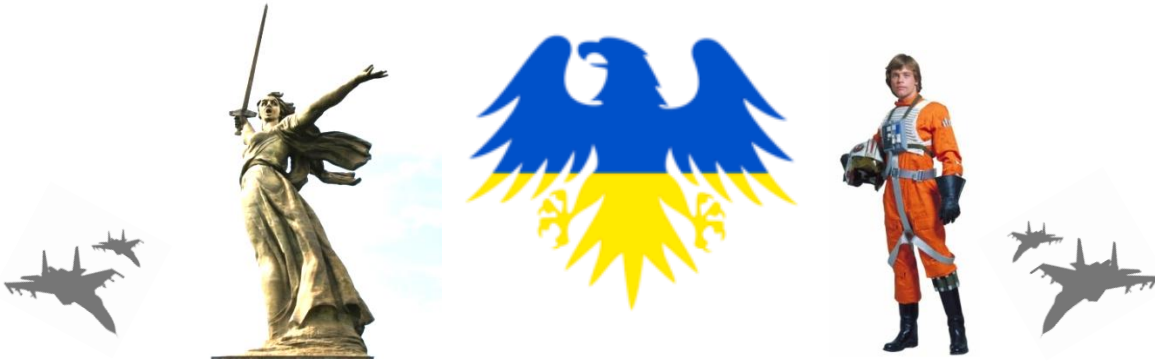
*'In this cruel and senseless war, honor and courage,
bravery and sacrifice belong strictly to Ukrainians!
"The Motherland Calls" wears our colors well!*



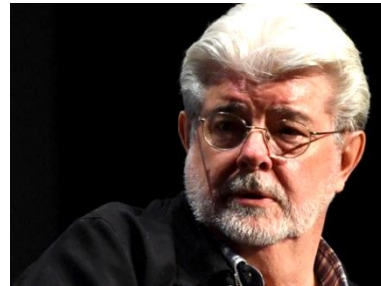
'Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heroes!'







UKRAINIAN “EAGLE”



‘What a mission! Get me a script and I’ll produce and direct!’

‘We’ll both produce! And ILM will do the F/X!’



‘Let “Eagle” be the last score of my life!’

‘No! There must be a Ukrainian Composer!’



‘Heroiam slava!’





REPAIRING RUSSIA





Glory to the Heroes!



 **OUR EAGLE** 