

Hasta la vista, baby: Russia just lost one of its most advanced weapons systems
The daily Digest



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How did Ukraine destroy their first BMP-T Terminator?

Ukrainian Defense Forces have allegedly destroyed one of Vladimir Putin's most advanced weapons systems according to reports from the head of Luhansk's Regional Military Administration.



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Serhii Haidai shares leaked images of the Terminators destruction
Serhii Haidai shared images of a destroyed Russian BMPT armored vehicle, commonly referred to as Terminators, to his Telegram channel on February 9th.



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The first confirmed kill

This was the first confirmed kill of Russia's most advanced tank support vehicle, a weapon that Russian officials seemed supremely confident in when its deployment to Ukraine was announced in May 2022.



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Haidai mocked Russia's loss

"So many beautiful words about the car being almost impossible to destroy....almost," Haidai wrote sarcastically on his Telegram channel according to a Yahoo Finance translation.



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Designed to support modern tank warfare

The Terminator BMP-T was designed as a tank support vehicle that was meant to protect Russian armor from anti-tank forces according to Insider’s Steve Balestrieri.



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Built for urban combat

“Interest in the design peaked after Russia’s disastrous invasion of Chechnya in the mid-1990s,” Balestrieri wrote in a 2020 article on the Terminator.



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Soviet-era tactics in Chechnya

“At the time,” the Insider journalist added, “Russian forces employed Soviet-era tactics which resulted in some of their units being decimated in urban warfare.”



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Urban warfare has devastated Russian troops

Urban warfare in Ukraine has proven to be as devastating as fighting in Chechnya, and that may be why Russia’s General Staff decided to deploy the Terminator last year.



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The Terminator in action...

In December, a Russian video of a Terminator attacking Ukrainian positions in Luhansk showed that the weapon was more than just useful in urban combat operations.



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An unfamiliar machine

“During recent fighting, the enemy’s dugout was practically trampled on, and the enemy fled at the sight of the Terminator,” A Terminator Crew Commander wrote in a statement to RIA Novosti. “For them, this is an unfamiliar machine and incomprehensible.”



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A war-winning weapon?

Some Western journalists have also commented on the combat effectiveness of Russia's most advanced tank support vehicle, as well as the possible future it has as a war-winning weapon in Ukraine.



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Supporting Russia's vulnerable tanks

"The BMPT is designed to overcome the vulnerability of the tank on a modern battlefield teeming with light anti-tank weapons," wrote David Hambling of Forbes in January.



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The last vehicle standing...

“It may end up as the last vehicle standing,” Hambling added, “and more relevant to the outcome of the war than the tanks which have become such a vital topic of discussion.”



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The Terminators terrifying armaments

Hambling noted that Russia’s BMPT is equipped with a main armament of two stabilized 30mm autocannons with a range of 2000 meters and four Ataka anti-tank guided missile launchers that can be used against heavier targets, which have a range of 6000 meters.



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No match for Ukrainian ingenuity

None of the now-destroyed Terminator's weaponry was a match for Ukrainian forces, however. It is still unknown what caused the initial damage to the vehicle, but it was quickly finished off by artillery from the Ukrainian Marine Corps' 140th Separate Reconnaissance Battalion.



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“Hasta la vista, baby!”

“Hasta la vista, baby,” read a post on the Facebook page of Ukraine’s Marine Corps Command which also shared a video of the destroyed BMPT.



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"Glory to the marines! Glory to Ukraine!"

"So, we see that this allegedly 'invincible' and 'unique' combat vehicle burns just as well as the rest of Russian scrap metal," the post continued according to Google Translation. "Glory to the marines! Glory to Ukraine!"