

# OPERATION ALEPPO

**Russia's War in Syria**

**The Inside Story of  
Putin's Military  
Intervention in the  
Syrian War**

**TIM RIPLEY**

OPERATION ALEPPO:

RUSSIA'S WAR IN SYRIA

TIM RIPLEY



*Back Ground Material  
Related to Chapters 5, 7 & 8 about Syrian  
ground operations with T-90 tanks in late  
2015 an*

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# T-90 operating around Aleppo, 2015-2016

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Original batch Nov 15  
154<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Division

February 2016 Aleppo offensive  
154<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Division

6 x T-90s on low loaders  
moving to Aleppo  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015  
Source: IvanSidorenko1

6 x T-90s in Aleppo  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Source: IvanSidorenko1

T-90 '21-5' in north Aleppo 7 feb 16  
Source: @bm21\_grad

21 serial on turret,  
indicates it is part  
of same batch and  
same unit

T-90 in Mayer, north of Aleppo, 5 February 2016  
Source: The Arab Source

Matching serials. This  
is the same tank. So  
the tanks of the 1<sup>st</sup>  
batch remained in the  
Aleppo region from  
Nov 15 to Feb 16

T-90 north of Aleppo 3 February 20 16  
Source: @2Rook14

2<sup>nd</sup> Batch T-90 arrive in Syria, January 2016 on Latakia coast – Aleppo supply road  
Note all tanks on civilian low loaders, indicating they are likely part of the same convoy

T-90 south of  
Jablah, Latakia ,  
28 January 2016  
Source:  
@TheRealBTL

T-90 on transporter, 31 January 2016  
Source: @2Rook14

Columns delivered some 2,000  
Syrian army reinforcements and new equipment to Aleppo  
during January, including at least four T-90 tanks  
@sayed\_ridha



T-90 '21-4' south of Aleppo, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Source: Sana

Tank '21-5' in Aleppo, December 2015  
Source: @JulianRoepcke1



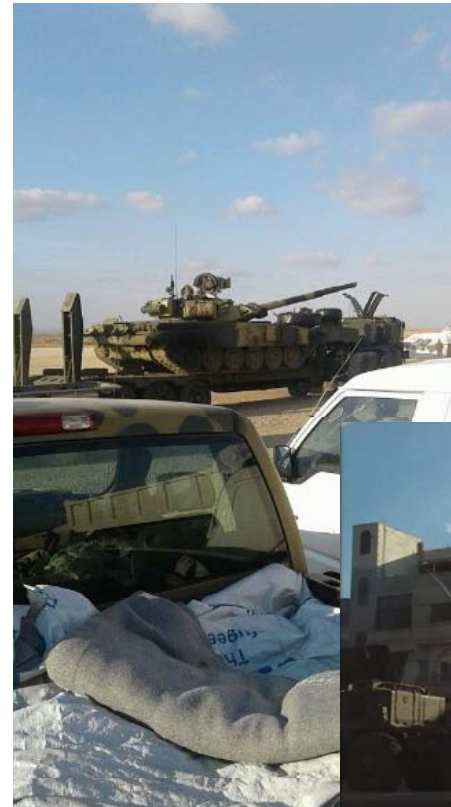
# Third Batch of T-90s on Ithriyah-Raqqa Front, February 2016

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A T-90 on the Ithriyah road,  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Source: IvanSidorenko1



This has to be a third batch of tanks because:

1. The first batch of tank were still operating with 154<sup>th</sup> Bde, 4<sup>th</sup> Div north of Aleppo during February. (this can be worked out from matching tank markings)
2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> batch of tanks are on a different type low loaders than the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch
3. It is very unlikely that the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of tanks were moved up to Aleppo and then moved all the way back down to Homs,

Two T-90s in the desert outside Ithriyah, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-Mtzq4RuDU>



A T-90 protecting an artillery base at Ithriyah on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/02/15/middleeast/syria-isis-frontline-hama/>



A T-90 inside Homs City, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
Note same type of low-loader as above pix. It is probably the same tank.  
Source: @bm21\_grad

# Russian T-90s in Syria, September 2015 – Feb 2016



Russia troops in Syria hold a concert with T-90 as the backdrop  
Source: [@2Rook14](#)



T-90 tanks still at Latakia airbase in February, as part of RuGF airbase security force.  
**This indicates that the Russian tank unit has not moved away from the airbase or has give its tanks to the Syrians.**

Source: [@bm21\\_grad](#)



Russian T-90 on force protection tasks in Latakia  
Source: <http://www.interpretermag.com/putin-in-syria-russian-infantry-reportedly-join-fight-in-latakia/>



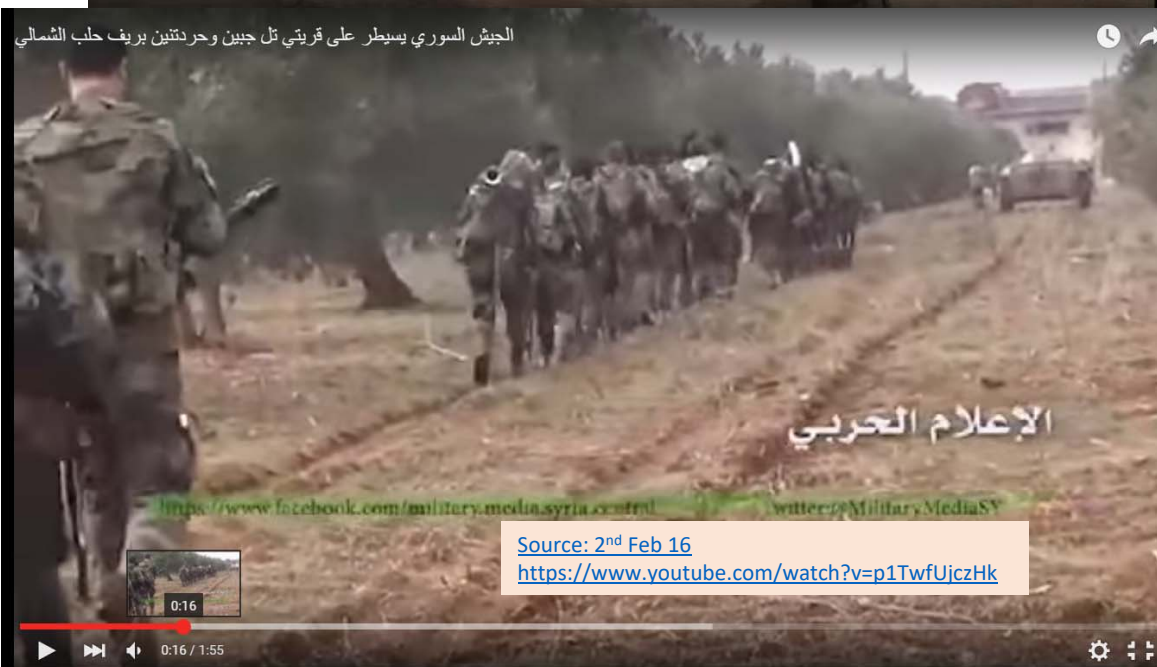
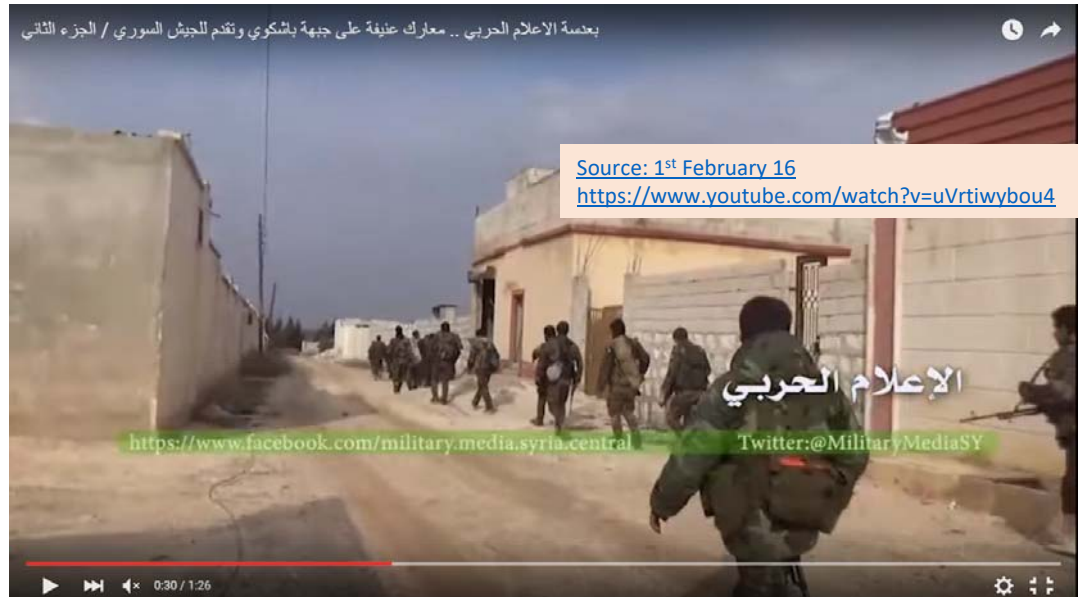
al-Assad International Airport, Syria | September 15, 2015 | Satellite Image: GeoNorth | PLEIADES © CNES, Distribution Airbus DS/Spot Image

Ground Assaults went in on 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> February, with Hizbullah and Iraqi Shia militia fighters backed by T-90 tanks of the Syrian 4<sup>th</sup> Division



Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 16  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1TwfUjczHk>

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The Syrian 4<sup>th</sup> Division has led the advance, equipped with new Russian-made T-90 tanks, fitted with the Shrota system to counter rebel TOW anti-tank missiles supplied by Saudi Arabia and Turkey. New versions of the T-72 fitted with a Syrian-installed missile defence system, has also been in the forefront of the offensive



Rebel TOW missile operator in action near Zahraa  
2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 16  
Source: @JulianRoeppcke



Newly delivered T-90 tank, with Shtora missile defence system  
Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 16  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcIxz\\_DIEY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcIxz_DIEY)



T-72 tank with missile defence system  
Source: 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 16  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcIxz\\_DIEY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcIxz_DIEY)

T-72 tank with missile defence system  
Source: 1st Feb 16  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVrtiwybou4>



Syria new missile defence System  
Source: @ivanSidorenko1