

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

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Operation Aleppo

Back Ground Material

Related to Chapter 16

Back to Palmyra, February-March 2017

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The Battle of Palmyra – 26 Feb – 4 Mar 2017

Analysis by Tim Ripley

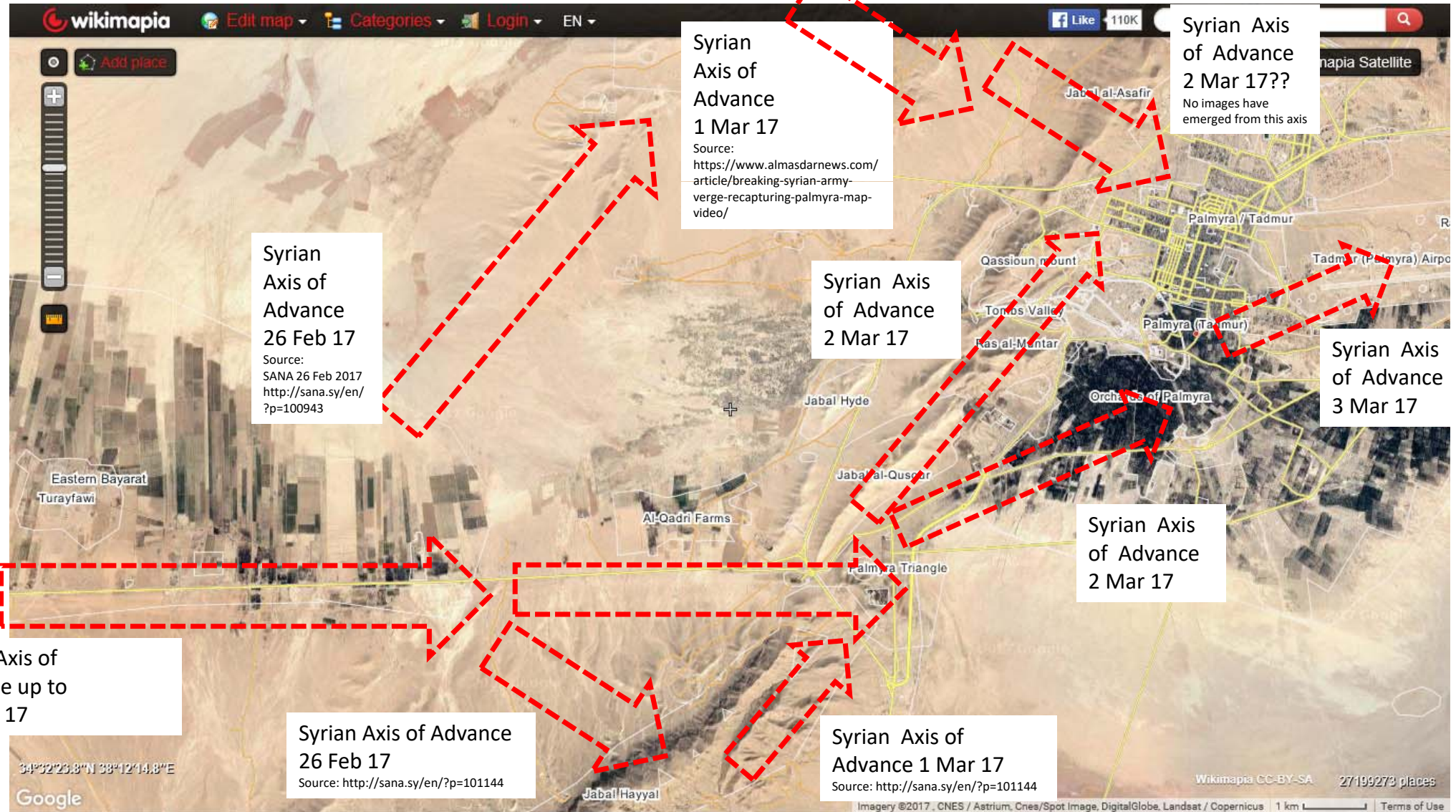


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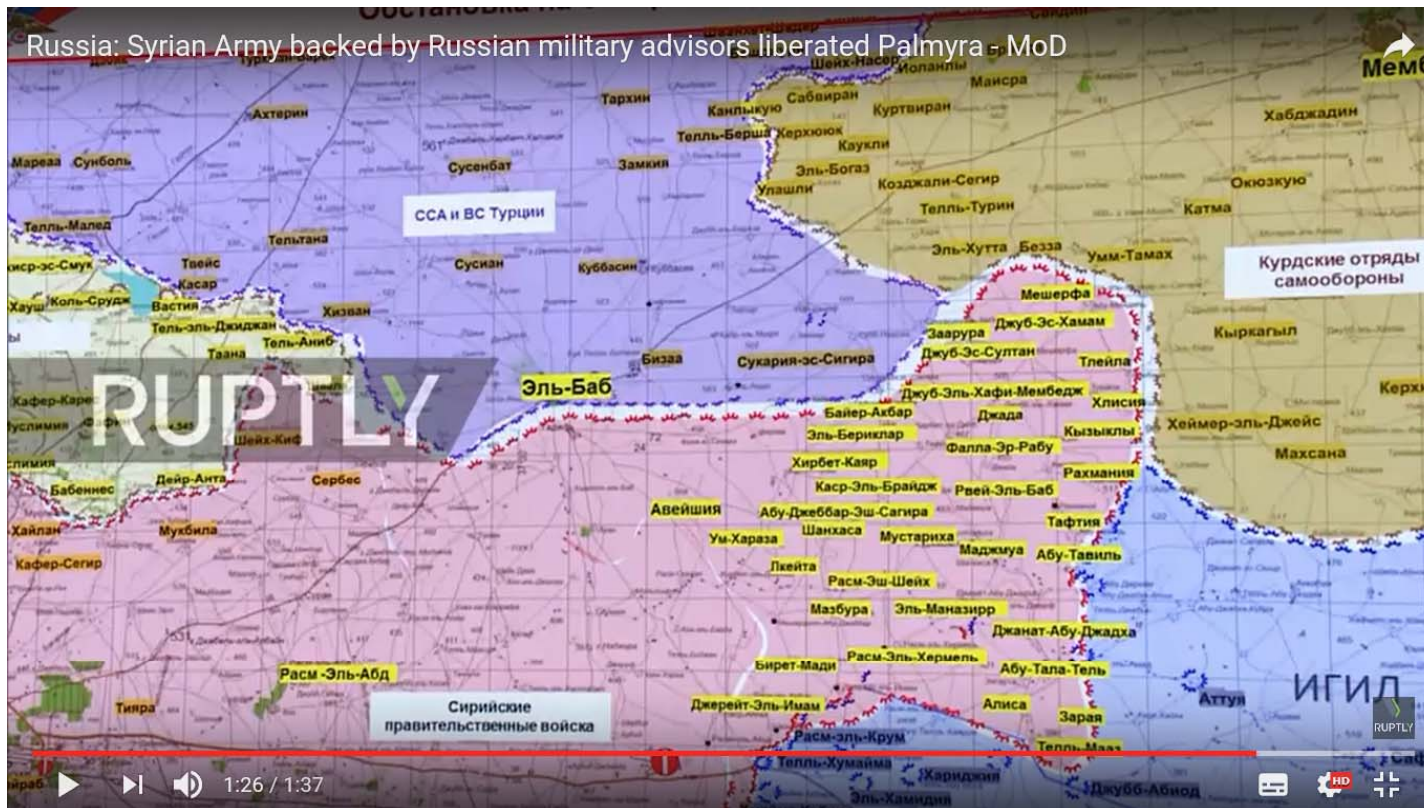
Battle of Palmyra – February-March 2017

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Russian MOD Briefing Map, 3 Mar 2017

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8FXIZXUC88>



Main Syrian Units identified as being involved in Palmyra Operation

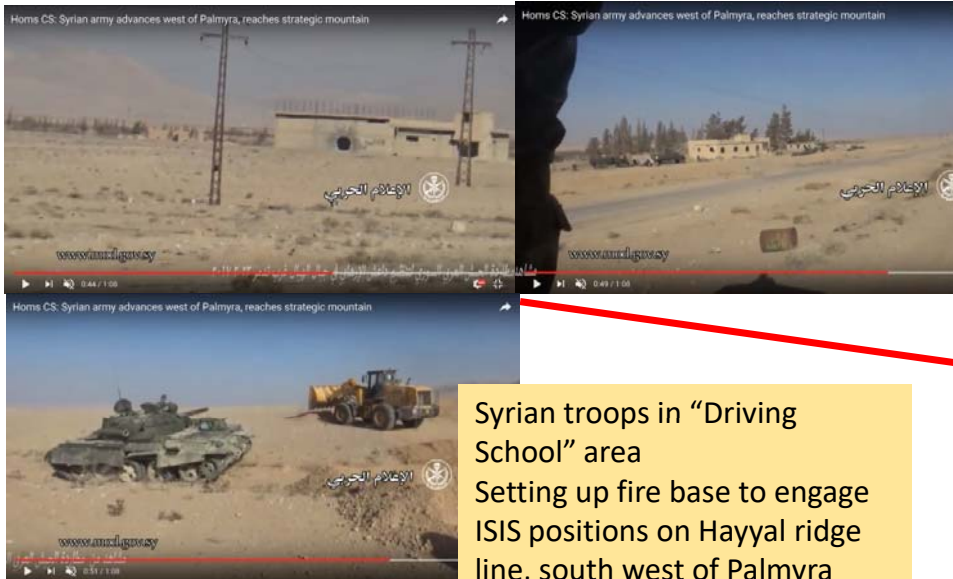
- 1st Brigade, 5th Legion
- 3rd Volunteer Assault Battalion
- Military Shield Forces
- ISIS Hunters
- elements of the 18th Tank Division,
- National Defence Force militia units
- Al-Badia regiment
- Shaitat tribal forces

Plus Russian Special Forces Detachment

Russian Mi-28 helicopter gunship strikes near Palmyra, 24 Feb 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkqQN-ladO0>

Russian Mi-28 attack helicopters engaging ISIS positions on Hayyal ridge line, south west of Palmyra with rockets



Syrian troops in "Driving School" area
Setting up fire base to engage ISIS positions on Hayyal ridge line, south west of Palmyra



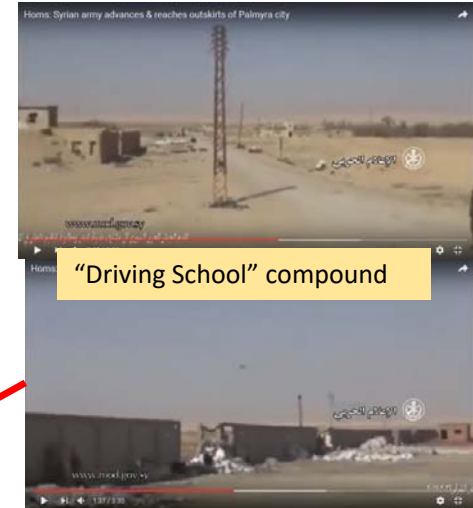
Syrian troops west of Palmyra 27 Feb 2017
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xa_RWVASyBI



Syrian troops and M-30 122mm artillery piece of 5th Legion on road to Palmyra



Destroyed ISIS T-72 tank



"Driving School" compound



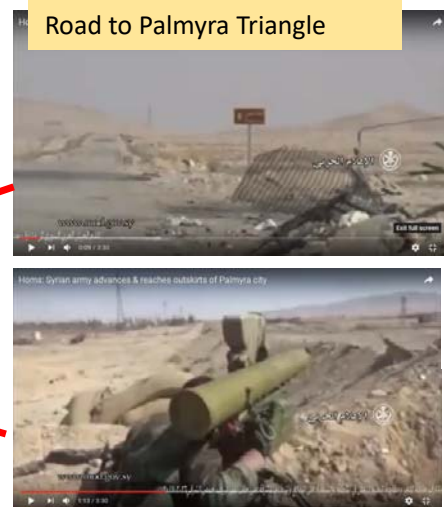
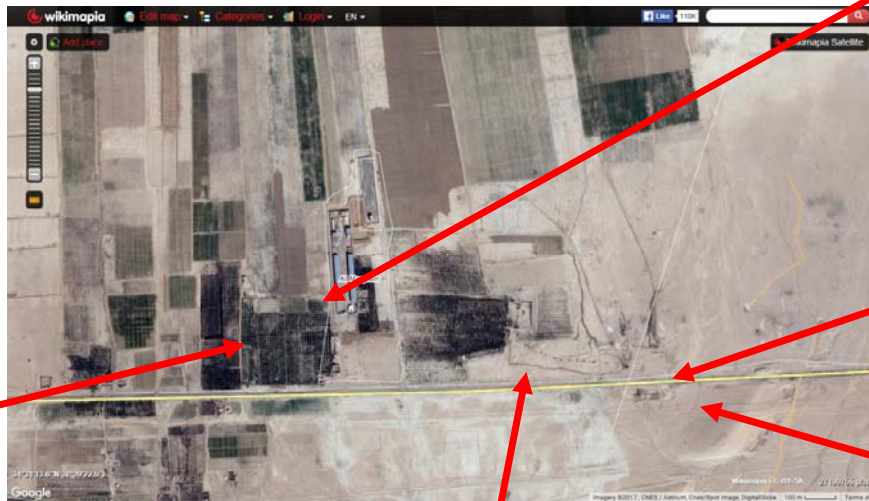
Syrian troops gun truck (seen later in slide #5 overlooking Palmyra)



5th Legion T-62M moves towards Palmyra Triangle



TOS-1A launcher vehicle, equipped to fire rockets with thermobaric warheads moves towards Palmyra Triangle



Road to Palmyra Triangle

5th Legion Kornet ATGW missile team covering Palmyra Triangle

Islamic State forces defend Palmyra

Source: Amaq News Agency, via Chris Tomson @TheDaneChris . #AmaqAgency
9:41 PM - 28 Feb 2017

Islamic State tank and mortar fire falling on Syrian troops moving up road to Palmyra triangle



Russian Ka-52 attack helicopter filmed by ISIS from Hayyal ridge (source: Amaq)



Islamic State T-72 tank and mortar mortar teams on front slope of Hayyal Ridge line



ISIS fighters, tanks, rocket launched and technical in Palmyra area (source: Amaq)

Syrian troops west of Palmyra 28 Feb 2017



Source: Chris Tomson
@TheDaneChris
11:37 PM - 28 Feb 2017



Syrian troops observing Palmyra
Triangle 28 Feb 17
Note: same truck as seen on image on
slide #3
Source: [@IvanSidorenko1](#)

Syrian Army at Palmyra Triangle, 1 March 17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjKXz9WSp90>

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Fire support during advance on Palmyra Triangle



BMP moves across valley floor



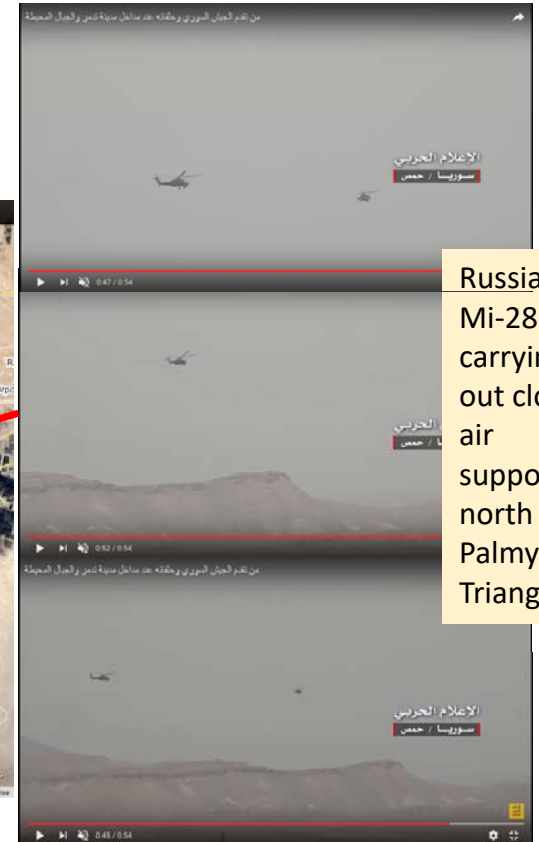
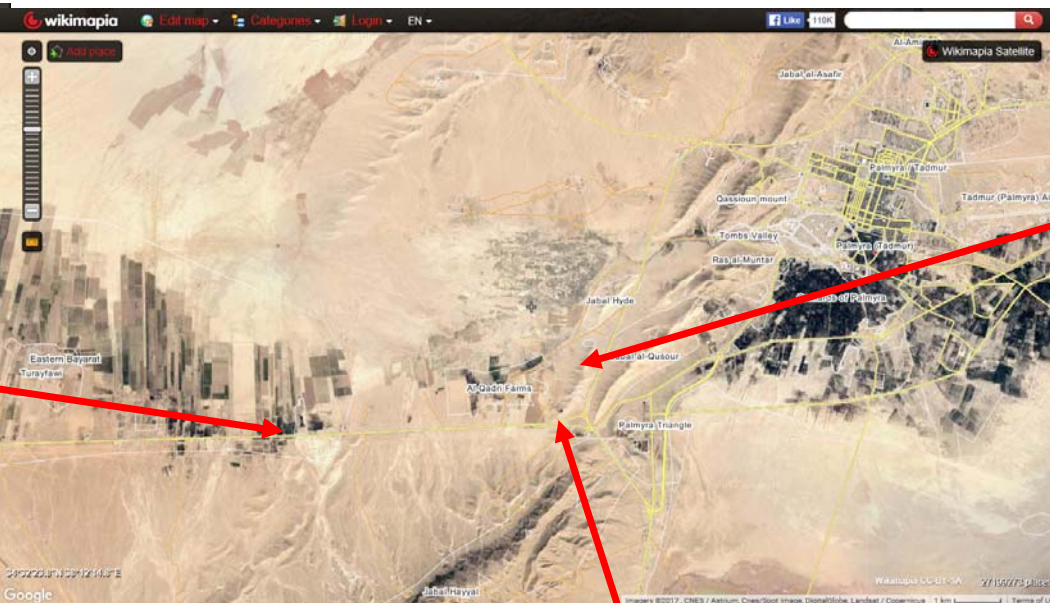
Gazelle observation helicopter monitors advance on Palmyra



Syrian T-7 tank providing fire support for advance on Palmyra Triangle

Syrian Army fire positions to the west of Palmyra, 1 March 17

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n9WEBQ360k>



Russian Mi-28s carrying out close air support to north of Palmyra Triangle

5th Legion M-30 122mm artillery battery and BM-21 rocket launcher battery



Syrian army logistic position near the Palmyra Triangle

Syrian troops, tanks and BMPs on Palmyra Triangle and then advancing along Qusour ridge line, 1 Mar 17
Source: SANA, via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SS7rPcX5dVU>

The image is a collage of several elements:

- Satellite Map:** A central satellite map of the Palmyra Triangle region in Syria. Red arrows point from the map to various locations: one points to the 'Palmyra Triangle' itself, another to 'Jabal Hyde', and others to 'Jabal el-Azhar' and 'Palmyra Triangle'. The map also shows 'Eastern Bayraq' and 'Tunayfa'.
- Video Frames:** Several video frames are overlaid on the map. One frame on the left shows a soldier standing next to a green sign with Arabic text and 'Der Alaw'. Another frame shows a military vehicle on a road. A larger frame on the right shows a desert landscape with a vehicle in the distance. The video frames are overlaid on a desktop background.
- Desktop Background:** The desktop background shows a Windows taskbar with the date '02/03/2017' and the time '10:25'. The desktop also displays a browser window with the title 'Army's operations against the ISIS terrorists in Palmyra' and a search bar containing the Arabic text 'ثلث تدمر'.

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Bodies of deal ISIS fighters around
Palmyra, suspected to be on top of
Hayyal ridge

Source: Warfare Worldwide @WarfareWW
11 hours ago 1 Mar 17



Syrian Army occupies Palmyra Triangle and Hayyal Ridge, 1 Mar 17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SEOS9fC8eE>

Russian SF team engage ISIS suicide bomber with 9K113 Konkurs ATGW near Palmyra Castle, 2 Mar 17
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbkFnVc



Cockpit video from Mi-28 engaging ISIS vehicles on Palmyra triangle
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbkFnVc



Inside Palmyra 2-3rd March

Civilians



Syrian army secures Military Security HQ in down town Tadmur, 2nd Mar 17
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ze xmVg4_zA0



Syrian troops om Palmyra's Ancient Ruins
3 Mar 17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkX1QeW9Beg>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbkFnVc

Since Syrian troops moved into Palmyra and Tabmur on 2-3 Mar 17

No imagery has emerged of more than a handful of civilians, which suggests the population fled when ISIS advanced on the town in Dec 2016



ISIS flag removed from Palmyra round about, 2 Mar 17
Source: @IvanSidorenko1

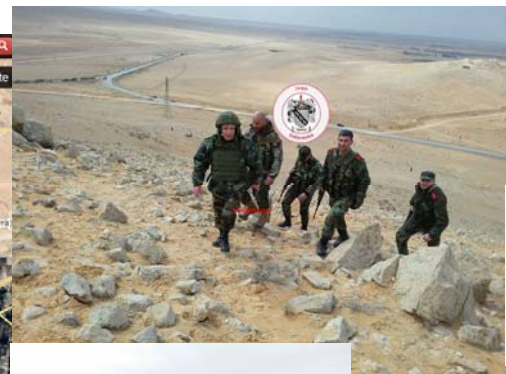
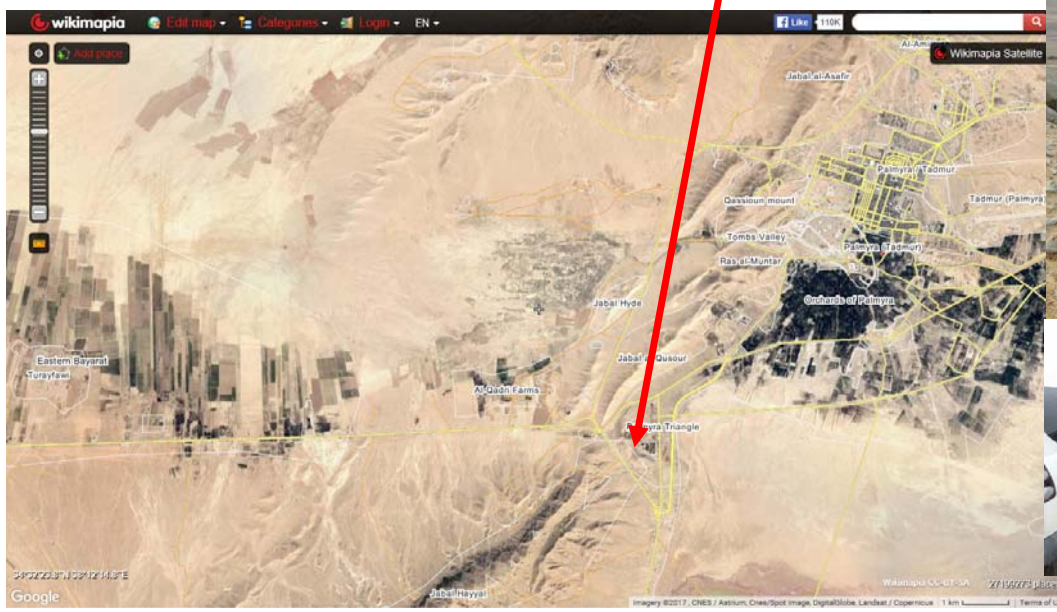


Syrian Support Troops around Palmyra Triangle, 2nd & 3rd Mar 17

Syrian army vehicles move up Palmyra Triangle road, 2 Mar 17, past destroyed ISIS NMP
Source: @QalaatAlMudiq



5th Corps First Brigade MLRS battery near Palmyra Triangle, 3 Mar 17
Source: @IvanSidorenko1



Senior Syrian General visits Palmyra Triangle 3 Mar 17
Source: @IvanSidorenko1

Possible Russian Artillery near Palmyra. Both TOS-1A and MSTA-B are not in widespread use with SAA with strongly suggested they are from the Russian artillery brigade in Syria. Ural 5323 support vehicles are not known to have been sold to Syrian and camo nets have "signature" of RuGF



2A65 MSTA-B battery to west of Palmyra Triangle, 2 Mar 17
Source: @QalaatAlMudiq



TOS-1A on Mercedes HET near at Palmyra Triangle 2 Mar 17
@CT-operative

Russian Participation in Battle of Palmyra



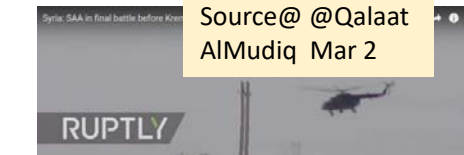
RuAF/GRU Forpost UAV imagery during Palmyra operation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbkFnVc



RuAF and Ru SF BTR-82 near the Palmyra Triangle, 2 Mar 17
Morant
Mathieu @MathieuMorant



Mi-28 over Hayyal ridge
Source @ @QalaatAlMudiq Mar 2



Mi-8 over Palmyra Triangle. 2 Mar
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zexmVg4_zA0



Russian SF Iveco Lynx approaches Palmyra Triangle, 3 mar 17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ5bBwPdZjM>

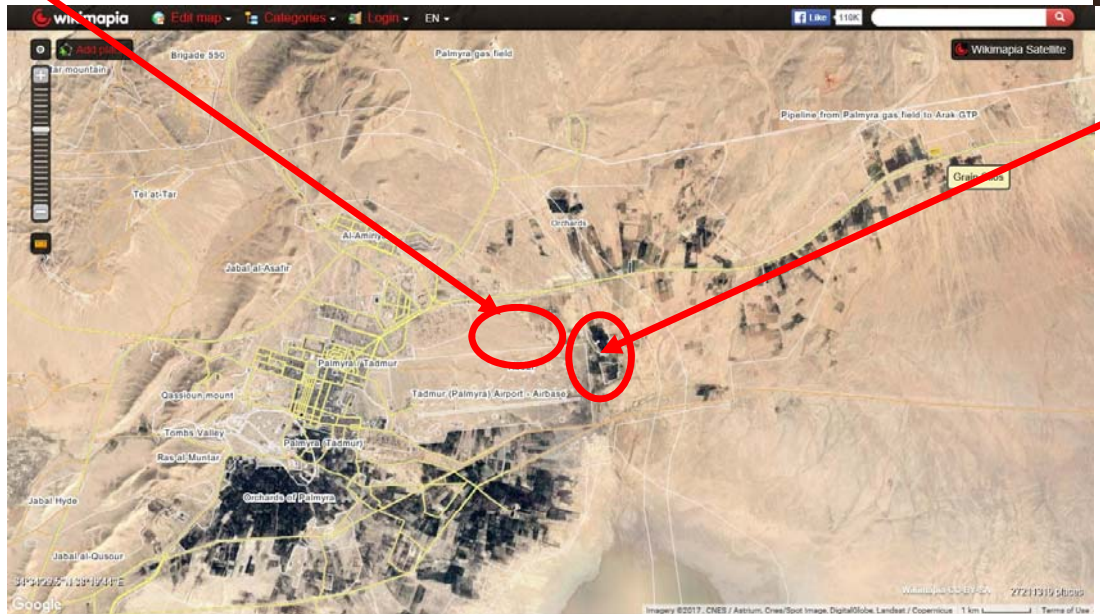


Ru SF and BTR-82 near the Palmyra Triangle, Mar 2

Commander of Ru Group of Forces in Syria, Colonel-General Andrei Kartapolov, visits Palmyra 4 Mar 17
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbkFnVc



Amaq news agency footage of ISIS vehicles in action around Palmyra airbase 3 Mar 17
Aldin B A @CT_operative · 3 Mar 17



Fighter around Palmyra airbase, 3 Mar 17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWIOFWZLeOs>

Syrian troops engaging ISIS vehicles on northern edge of the airbase



Three wrecked tanks were found by Syrian troops inside a hardened shelter on the airbase. Hole in roof suggested US 2,000lb BLU-109/B penetrator bomb



Battle for Palmyra Airbase, 3 Mar 17
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbkFnVc



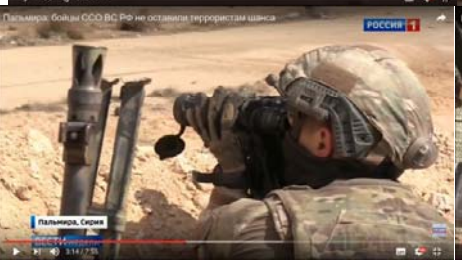
Syrian T-62M on perimeter of Palmyra Airbase engaging ISIS, 3 Mar 17



Gaz Tigr Utility vehicle



SPG-9M Recoilles rifle



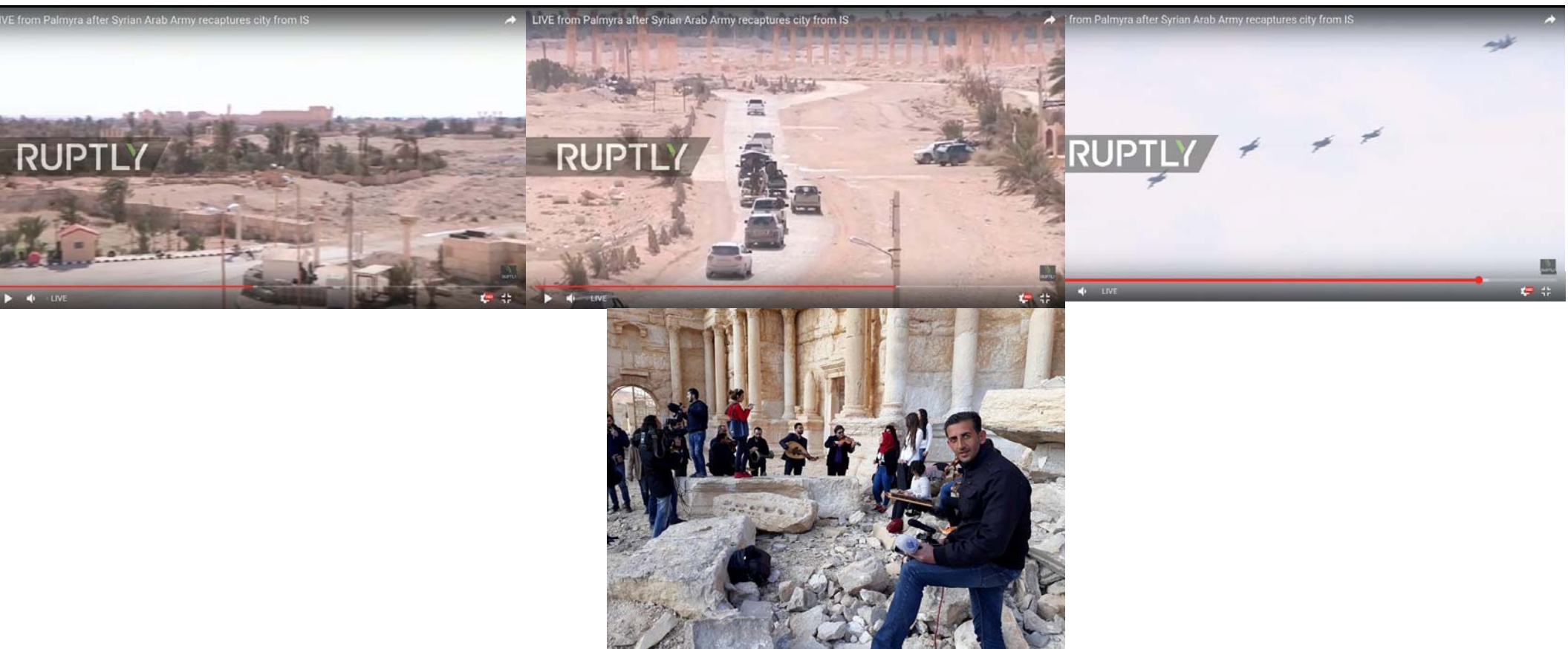
9K113 Konkurs ATGM launcher



Laser range finder??



Russian media event in Palmyra ruins on 4 Mar 17,
including RUAf fly past broadcast live on RT
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGZn_PGbh98



Coalition strikes on Palmyra region, 20th Feb 2017 onwards

Combined Joint Task Force Inherent Resolve Strike Reports
Source: <http://www.inherentresolve.mil/News/Strike-Releases/>

20 Feb 2017

Near Palmyra, three strikes destroyed 26 oil tanker trucks.

21 Feb 2017

Near Palmyra, four strikes destroyed a tactical vehicle, a heavy machine gun, and a pump jack; and damaged a tank.

22 Feb 2017

Near Palmyra, two strikes engaged two ISIS tactical units and destroyed four tactical vehicles.

23 Feb 2017

Near Palmyra, one strike engaged an ISIS tactical unit and destroyed a tactical vehicle.

24 Feb 2017

Near Palmyra, one strike engaged an ISIS tactical unit and destroyed a vehicle and a tactical vehicle.

25 Feb 2017

Near Palmyra, seven strikes engaged two ISIS staging areas and an ISIS tactical unit; destroyed five storage units, three tanks, two vehicles, an oil storage tank, a pump jack and an ISIS-held building; and damaged two oil storage tanks.

26 Feb

Near Palmyra, two strikes destroyed six pump jacks.

27 Feb 2017

Near Palmyra, two strikes destroyed five tanks.

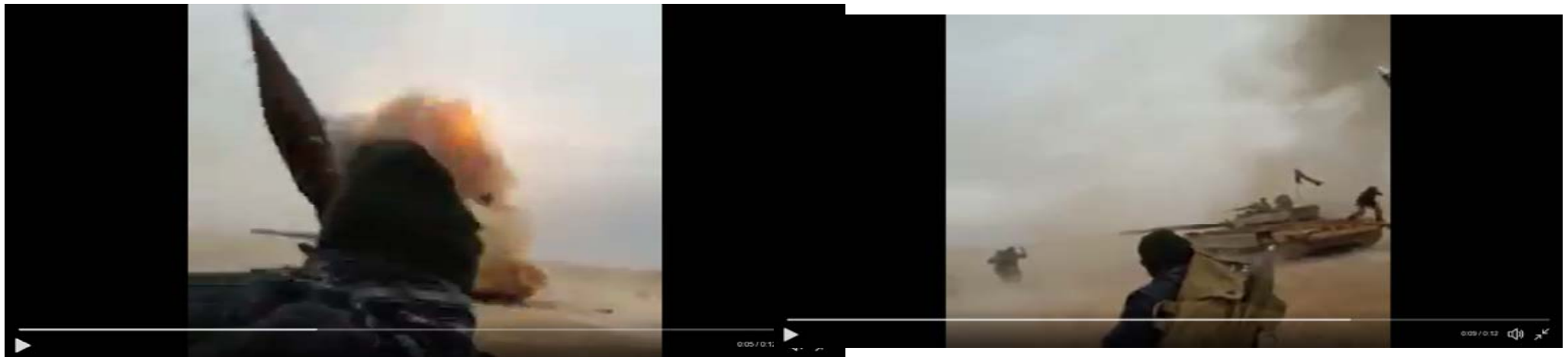
These are extracts from the US-led coalition's daily air strike reports. They show a sustained effort to hit ISIS targets around Palmyra. Note there are no Free Syrian Army, Kurdish or any other rebel forces any where near Palmyra. The only beneficiaries of these strikes is the Syrian Army and their Russian allies.

RAF Tornados saw further action over western Mosul on Monday 27 February, when they struck another terrorist mortar team with a Paveway IV. The Tornado flight then headed west into Syria, where a main battle tank operated by Daesh had been identified at Tadmur, in the ancient city of Palmyra. A Brimstone missile scored a solid hit on the target

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-air-strikes-against-daesh>

[BM-27 Uragan](#) Retweeted
[monitoring @warsmonitoring Jul 30](#)

IS strike on SAA tank around Palmyra in March. Rare footage from this angle.



[@warsmonitoring](#) [Nov 2](#) More

Replying to [@warsmonitoring](#)

TOS-1A striking mountains west of Palmira during last(?) battle.

