

# Science and Digital Briefs

By Shopper Editor Dave Bunting

Mar. 9, 2022

## We can help

**Ukrainians with charitable donations:**

**Food, medical, etc. help:**

**Ukraine Red Cross:**  
[shpr.fyi/ukraineredcross](http://shpr.fyi/ukraineredcross)

**Samaritans Purse:**  
[shpr.fyi/samaritanpurse](http://shpr.fyi/samaritanpurse)

**Mercy Corps:**  
[mercycorps.org/donate](http://mercycorps.org/donate)

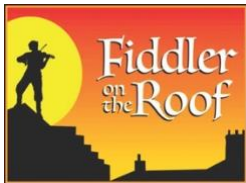
**Military help:**  
[war.ukraine.ua/donate/](http://war.ukraine.ua/donate/)

**Ukraine** has 44 million people, six times Washington State's 7.6 million. Ukraine, the largest country in Europe and about the size of Texas, is 232,000 sq. mi., three times Washington's 71,000 sq. mi. Ukraine is one of the largest grain exporters in the world, in wheat approximately equaling our huge total U.S. export.

Ukraine is the poorest country in Europe with GDP per capita \$4,958, with 31% of its people in poverty. For comparison our U.S. GDP per capita is \$63,500 and Russia's is \$10,130.

Ukrainians are 87% Christian with 67% being Eastern Orthodox, ten percent other Christian, and nine percent Greek Catholic.

73% of Ukrainians speak Ukrainian language, 11% speak Russian, 9% speak Yiddish.



The play *Fiddler on the Roof* is set in the Ukrainian village of Anatevka 14 miles southwest of Ukraine's capitol city Kyiv.

Ukraine's time zone is nine hours ahead of Pacific Time. To know Ukraine time, add nine hours to Pacific Time. For example, if time here is 1:00 pm, time in Ukraine is 10:00 pm.

Ukrainians were considered slaves, starved, and brutalized by the Germans in WWII, especially during their scorched-earth murderous withdrawal after their Stalingrad defeat when more than 700 cities and towns and 28,000 villages were destroyed with all the people massacred. Five to seven million Ukrainians perished. Over 100,000 Ukrainians ended up fighting with the Allies with the Polish Army.

Ukraine is planning to create an international legion of foreign volunteer fighters:

[shpr.fyi/ukrainefight](http://shpr.fyi/ukrainefight)  
More than 20,000 veterans from all nations have volunteered.

Ukraine's cold war 130 ICBM's and 1,700 nuclear



warheads, the most in any Soviet state, were removed from Ukraine by 1996 and disassembled in Russia.

*The US-Russia-Ukraine Trilateral Statement and Annex* were signed on 14 January, 1994, in Moscow by Presidents Clinton, Yeltsin and Kravchuk. The Statement and Annex:

- provided for the transfer of all nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine to Russia for dismantlement.
- provided for security assurances by the US, Russia and United Kingdom to Ukraine.

*Editor Note & Correction- I apologize for last week stating that President Obama signed the agreement. President Clinton signed it.*

## Damn the Torpedoes! Full Speed Ahead!

The Battle of Mobile Bay was a naval battle of the American Civil War, which held great strategic importance in the summer of 1864. It was important because Mobile Bay was the last Confederate port in the Gulf of Mexico.

The port became one of the most important centers for the Confederacy as all harbors were under Union naval blockade since 1861.

Mobile Bay was protected by three forts – Fort Morgan, Fort Gaines and Fort Powell. Also 67 naval mines, or “torpedoes” were planted across the bay with a gap on the east side under the Forts’ guns, so that Confederate ships could pass safely.

The Union admiral who was trusted with the mission of securing the Bay of Mobile was David Farragut, a 40-years experienced naval commander.

He commanded a fleet of 18 vessels: 9 of them were wooden-hulled battleships carrying many guns that fired cannon broadsides, and four of the ironclad monitors, USS *Tecumseh* and USS *Manhattan*, USS *Chickasaw* and USS *Winnebago*.

The Admiral himself was aboard the flagship, USS *Hartford*. Farragut had numerical superiority, but the position seemed to be perfectly defended. The only thing he could count on was the low morale of the troops defending

the forts, for it was obvious in 1864 that the War was coming to its end.

On August 3, Farragut delayed the attack until the arrival of his fourth monitor USS *Tecumseh*-- but by mistake the ship went directly across the minefield, hitting one of the torpedoes and sinking almost instantly with only 21 of the 93-man crew surviving.

In desperation Farragut decided to run his entire fleet through the mines, thus avoiding the fort cannons, assuming, even though one of the mines had just sunk USS *Tecumseh*, the mines had been submerged for too long and most of them wouldn't explode.



## Damn the Torpedoes! Full Speed Ahead!

U.S. Navy WWI Recruiting Poster

During the battle, in an ultimate act of bravery, Farragut climbed up the mast and was tied to it so he wouldn't fall, for a better overview of the situation, since the smoke coming out of the guns obstructed his sight from the deck.

Reports were that he gave the order: “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead,” which became a memorable quote in naval history.

By most sources he didn't say these words, but Farragut did take the incredible risk of sailing his fleet through the minefield. His gamble paid off: he went through the minefield with no losses, started the bombardment, and Fort Powell and Fort Gaines soon surrendered, leading to the end of the war with its horrible killing.

*Check out this week's Bible Readings on page 6 which includes Jesus' words, "I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her young under her wings, and you were unwilling!" Luke 13:34 NASB*

*Note: Links may or may not work in this format. We're working on it. You may type the link address like [mercycorps.org/donate](http://mercycorps.org/donate) or [daverant.com](http://daverant.com) into your address line.*

Dave Bunting, Mar. 7, 2022

References in links below items.  
See these columns on my blog [daverant.com](http://daverant.com)