

Russian troops reach centre of Ukrainian bastion Vuhledar

KYIV, Oct 1 (Reuters) – Russian troops have reached the centre of Vuhledar, a bastion on strategic high ground in eastern Ukraine that had resisted Russian assaults since Moscow’s full-scale invasion, the regional governor of Ukraine’s Donetsk region said on Tuesday.

Footage posted to social media showed Russian soldiers waving a flag from atop a bombed-out multi-storey building and unfurling another flag on a metal spire on a roof. Reuters determined the footage matched street patterns of Vuhledar.

Other images showed smoke rising over the ruins of the small mining town, a major battlefield where Ukrainian units had held off previous armoured Russian assaults throughout 2-1/2 years of war.

“The enemy is already nearly in the centre of the city,” regional governor Vadym Filashkin told Ukrainian TV, describing the situation as very difficult.

Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne quoted two soldiers of Ukraine’s 72nd Mechanized Brigade defending Vuhledar as saying that while Russian forces were in control of most of the town “certain parts” remained under Ukrainian control.

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