

Russia's 29 months of bombardment has taken a real toll on Ukraine's power system. The lights were off in Odesa last night, and again this morning, as they were in Kyiv and elsewhere. But this is a minor annoyance in cities where generators rumble away on most streets. In rural Kharkiv oblast, only twenty miles from the Russian border, it's a much more serious problem.

Last weekend I got message from Oleksandr, a friend and medical officer from a Ukrainian Special Forces unit I've supported with equipment purchased with funds from www.inthetrenchesukraine.org. He had a fully functional 3.5 KV gas generator at his house but was planning on upgrading for next winter. Did I know a military outfit that could use it?

I promptly contacted my indispensable amiga Lena who quickly identified a Sergeant Major in Kharkiv whose team needed a reliable power source to charge their Starlink terminal, their phones, and walkie-talkies.

The next day Oleksandr brought the jenny to his local Nova Poshta, Ukraine's uber-efficient private delivery company (Fedex, DHL and UPS - hang your collective heads in shame), paid the cost from his own pocket, and two days later the machine was at the front lines.

Ukrainians helping Ukrainians, a key ingredient in winning this war.

