American Who Helped Russian Forces in Ukraine Receives Russian Citizenship

July 15, 2025

Daniel Martindale (left) shakes the hand of Denis Pushilian (right). **Video grab**

An American man who claims to have assisted Russian troops in Ukraine for two years [received](#) a Russian passport on Tuesday, state media reported.

Authorities in the Moscow-controlled Donetsk region [identified](#) the man as Daniel Richard Martindale and said he had played a "key role" in helping Russian forces seize the village of Bohoiavlenka near the occupied city of Vuhledar in October 2023.

Martindale [appeared](#) in a televised passport ceremony at the Donetsk representative office in Moscow, where he recited the oath of citizenship in Russian. The pro-Kremlin head of Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, [said](#) President Vladimir Putin had signed a decree granting him citizenship.

"I, Daniel Richard Martindale, voluntarily and consciously accepting the citizenship of the Russian Federation, swear to observe the constitution," Martindale [said](#).

Originally from New York, Martindale [told](#) reporters last year that he had done "everything to save the lives of Russian soldiers" and requested Russian citizenship during a press conference in Moscow.

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Pushilin claimed Martindale provided intelligence that helped Russian forces [capture](#) the Ukrainian city of Kurakhove in December.

The pro-Kremlin official also said Martindale had to be rescued due to threats to his safety. "When it became clear that Daniel's continued presence in that area was life-threatening, our special services conducted a highly complex rescue," he wrote on Telegram.

Martindale said he plans to become a farmer in Russian-occupied Ukraine, where he said "people may have experienced what I have."

"They understand that the land has indeed been liberated from criminal power and we're all looking forward to a better future," he said.

Russian state media [reported](#) that Martindale's family supports his decision to remain in the region and plans to visit him.

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