

Russian Orthodox Church Sends Bones of Medieval Warrior Prince to Ukraine Front to Boost Troop Morale

By [Reuters](#)

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Bone fragment from the right hand of Dmitry Donskoy. **Military Department of the Moscow Patriarchate / Telegram**

Bone fragments from the sword hand of a medieval Russian prince who won a famous victory over the Mongols have been sent to the front in Ukraine to raise army morale in the Russian Orthodox Church's latest show of support for the war.

The sarcophagus of Grand Prince Dmitry Donskoy, who died in 1389 and is revered by Russian nationalists for defeating the Mongol Golden Horde at the 1380 Battle of Kulikovo, was uncovered this summer during restoration work at Moscow's Cathedral of the Archangel inside the Kremlin.

Putin personally inspected what experts said were the prince's well-preserved remains in

August, hailing them as "an absolutely unique and marvellous discovery" that reinforced the foundations of Russian history.

The Russian Orthodox Church, which has backed Putin throughout the conflict, said it had dispatched a fragment of Donskoy's right hand to Donetsk, one of four Ukrainian regions Russia claims to have annexed in 2022.

Related article: [Putin Visits Newly Unearthed Remains of Dmitry Donskoy](#)

Referring to Donskoy as "the holy commander," the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church said part of his remains had been sent to the front to stand invisibly shoulder-to-shoulder with Russian troops.

"A fragment of the Grand Prince's right hand — the very same right hand with which he wielded his sword on Kulikovo Field — has been sent to the front to strengthen the soldiers' spirits," it said in a statement.

The relic, held in a small ornate casket beneath toughened glass, will be shown to Russian combat units along the front line, it said.

Donskoy, whose name was given to a Soviet tank column funded by the church in World War II, was declared a saint by the Russian Orthodox Church in 1988.

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