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# Russia and Ukraine Exchange Bodies of Nearly 300 Soldiers

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Russia and Ukraine exchanged the remains of 277 soldiers killed fighting in the war, the RBC outlet reported Thursday, citing a Russian lawmaker.

Russia returned 252 bodies to Ukraine and received 25 fallen Russian soldiers in return, said Shamsail Saraliyev, a State Duma lawmaker from the ruling United Russia party and member of a parliamentary group dedicated to the conflict.

The exchange took place at the Novaya Guta border crossing in Belarus, according to Belarusian state media.

Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War later confirmed the exchange. It thanked the International Committee of the Red Cross for help facilitating the repatriation.

Earlier this month, Kyrylo Budanov, the head of the Ukrainian president's office, estimated

that more than 26,000 bodies and human remains had been repatriated to Ukraine through exchange operations since the start of the war.

Russia and Ukraine previously exchanged the bodies of fallen soldiers in September and August.

Thursday's repatriation came a day after U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff concluded talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg to discuss renewing trilateral peace negotiations that have stalled since February.

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