

# Wagner leader Prigozhin

Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin was on the passenger list of a jet that crashed flying from Moscow to St Petersburg, killing all ten people on board, according to Russian officials



■ **1980s: Yevgeny Viktorovich Prigozhin** spends nine years in prison for robbery

■ **1990s:** Prigozhin starts career as hot dog seller. Becomes involved in grocery and gambling businesses – meets **Vladimir Putin**

■ **1995:** Builds restaurant and catering business in St Petersburg, becomes known as “Putin’s chef”

■ **2003-12:** Prigozhin’s Concord Catering wins significant government contracts, including schools and military

■ **2014:** His newly-formed paramilitary **Wagner Group** supports Russia-backed uprising in eastern Ukraine

■ **2015:** Wagner supports Putin’s campaign in Syria, shoring up President **Bashar al-Assad**

■ **2016:** Prigozhin indicted by U.S. federal authorities, accused of operating “troll farm” to influence presidential election

■ **2018:** Wagner supports Kremlin goals in string of African countries stretching from Central African Republic to Libya

■ **Feb 2022:** Putin invades Ukraine. Wagner deploys tens of thousands of its veterans. Prigozhin recruits mercenaries in prisons

■ **2023:** Putin protégé clashes with army chiefs, accusing them of depriving his fighters of supplies

■ **Jun 24, 2023:** Prigozhin stages aborted mutiny against Kremlin’s military leadership. Putin denounces rebellion as “treason” – observers speculate that mercenary chief is “dead man walking”

■ **Aug 23, 15.20GMT:** Prigozhin’s Embraer Legacy 600 private jet flying to St Petersburg plummets from its cruising altitude of 8,530 metres



Video images appear to show plane is missing a wing