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4

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STALIN'S ORDER OF THE DAY

Order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to Army General Vatutin:

Having launched an offensive in the Zhitomir direction, the troops of the First Ukrainian Front pierced the German defenses and in six days of stiff fighting, by the close of day on December 29, advanced from 50 to 100 kilometers and widened a breach of 300 kilometers along the front.

In the course of the offensive engagements our troops routed eight German tank divisions, including the SS Adolf Hitler and Reich Tank Divisions; also 14 infantry divisions. As a result of the successful



From his observation post Captain Alimov, commander of a heavy mortar battery in the advanced lines, directs fire on the German positions

offensive, the troops of the front captured the town and big railway junction of Korosten; the towns of Volodarsk-Kozyansk, Zolynsky, Chervonoarmeisk, Chernyakhov, Radomyshl, Korostyshev; the town and most important railway junction of Kazatin; the town of Skvira and over 1,000 other inhabited localities.

In the fighting the following troops distinguished themselves: the troops under Colonel General Moskalenko, Lieutenant General Chernyakhovski, Lieutenant General Pukhov, Colonel General Grecheamo, Lieutenant General Zhmachenko, Colonel General Lesselidze, Major General Tafonin, Lieutenant General Lyudnikov, Major General Kiryukhin; tankmen under Lieutenant General Rybalko, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Katukov, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Kravchenko, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Poluboyarov, Major General of Tank Troops Panfilov, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Getman, Major General of Tank Troops Ivanov and artillerymen under Lieutenant General of Artillery Turbin, Major General of Artillery Ivanov, Lieutenant General of Artillery Koroyashvili, Major General of Artillery Frolov, Lieutenant General of Artillery Korolkov, Colonel Gusev and Colonel Mintyukov.

To mark the victory achieved the formations and units which won especial distinction, as well as the commanders who distinguished themselves in the fighting, shall be recommended for decoration with an Order.

Today, December 30, at 10 P. M., the Capital of our motherland, Moscow, will salute the gallant troops of the First Ukrainian Front which broke through the German defenses—with 20 artillery salvos from 224 guns.

For excellent combat actions I thank all the troops under your command which participated in the fighting at Korosten, Zhitomir and Kazatin.

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the fighting for the freedom and independence of our motherland!

Death to the German invaders!

(Signed)

SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION STALIN

Moscow, December 30, 1943

422221

KALININ'S ADDRESS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

Following is the text of the New Year's address by Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR:

Dear Comrades! Citizens of the Soviet Union! Men and women workers! Men and women collective farmers! Soviet intellectuals! Red Army and Navy men, commanders and political workers! Men and women guerrillas! Residents of Soviet districts temporarily captured by the German-fascist occupationists!

I greet and congratulate you upon the coming New Year.

Comrades, this is the third time our country meets the New Year in the conditions of hard struggle against German fascism. All the interests and thoughts of our people are bound with the war, while the people's energy and aspirations are directed toward a single great patriotic aim—the earliest expulsion of the enemy from the Soviet Union, the victory over the German invaders.

It is quite natural that today, the day of the coming New Year, every Soviet citizen asks himself—what have we accomplished during the past year, and

in the first place, on the front of struggle against the German invaders?

One must say bluntly—much has been accomplished. Certainly this falls short of our desire—to completely clear Soviet territory of the fascist brigands; but still our military achievements are enormous.

The past year was a year of radical turn in the course of the war. The beginning of 1943 was marked by the historic victory scored by our troops at Stalin-grad, and the summer by another important victory at Kursk and Belgorod. As a result of the Red Army's offensive operations, two-thirds of the territory temporarily occupied by the Germans has been liberated from the enemy. The Red Army completely liberated from the Germans the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories, the Kalmykia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov, Smolensk and Stalin-grad Regions. The Ukraine east of the Dnieper has been delivered from German bondage with its large—in regard to population and industrial importance—Regions of Stalino, Voroshilovgrad, Kharkov, Poltava, Sumy and Chernigov. Large parts of the Dniepropetrovsk and Zaporozhye Regions, with the regional centers of Dniepropetrovsk and Zaporozhye, have been

cleared of the Germans. Parts of the Kiev, Kirovograd, Zhitomir and Nikolayev Regions have also been liberated. More than 30 districts of the Gomel, Mogilev, Vitebsk and Polesye Regions of Byelorussia, and the regional center—the town of Gomel—have been cleared of the German invaders.

This is evidence of the grave defeat sustained by the German army on the Soviet front during 1943.

One of the most important successes scored by our Red Army during the past year was doubtless the forcing of the Dnieper—the liberation of the city of Kiev, the establishment and expansion of place d'armes in the Ukraine west of the Dnieper.

The Germans particularly clung to the Dnieper as to their most important defensive line, but the Red Army dislodged them from these positions and tirelessly drives them back westward toward the Soviet frontiers, driving deep wedges into the German defenses. The blows dealt by the Red Army to the fascist invaders are gradually sobering not only the German command but the entire leading gang of Hitlerites. The Urals, and the Baku oil have been forgotten, the desire to encircle Moscow has been lost, and, which is especially significant, the Germans have begun to regard "elastic retreat" and "shortening the front line" as their best strategy.

This explanation of the fate of German war plans is laughable; but evidently the German command has no better explanation. And, as the saying goes, nothing can be made out of nothing. As to the so-called German "elastic retreat," the Red Army knows well that the Germans do not abandon voluntarily a single yard of Soviet soil; they have to be knocked out of Soviet territory in the stiff fighting which our army carries on day in and day out. The true helpers of our Red Army are our valiant men and women guerrillas. They perform great deeds by ruthlessly annihilating the enemy.

For the sake of justice one must say that the Red Army's successes on the front are largely made possible by the self-sacrificing labor of Soviet men and women in factories and plants, in pits and mines, in transport and in agriculture. Workers, collective farmers, Soviet intellectuals, all the peoples of the Soviet Union, have worked this year with still greater success, supplying their army with everything.

And the best reward for the energy, enthusiasm and high sense of patriotic duty displayed by the Soviet people in their labor is the appraisal given to the work of the Soviet rear by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin.

This year, parallel with the Red Army's blows, our Allies have also waged an incessant struggle against the German-fascist troops. Anglo-American troops ousted the Germans from Northern Africa, Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica. At present the scene of struggle has been shifted to Southern Italy, where the Al-

lied troops are steadily forging ahead toward Rome—capital of Italy. The Anglo-American Air Force has acted effectively, destroying military industrial objectives of Germany. Germany's strongest ally in Europe—Italy—has surrendered, while the Italian people on a growing scale joins the struggle against the Germans.

The joint struggle against German fascism has brought about close political rapprochement between the Allies. The Moscow Conference held at the close of October of this year, with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the United States of America, Great Britain and the Soviet Union, insured the further business-like rapprochement between the Allies and paved the way for the meeting of the leaders of the Allied countries.

From November 28 to December 1 was held the Conference of leaders of the Three Allied Powers—Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR Stalin, the President of the United States of America Roosevelt, and the Prime Minister of Great Britain Churchill—in Teheran. The Conference went down in history as the Teheran Conference of the three great Powers of the world.

Indeed, the Teheran Conference is the great event of our days, a historical milestone in the struggle against the German aggressor. All German efforts to cause disunity among the freedom-loving peoples were blasted. The leaders of the three great Powers arrived at full accord in matters of war and peace. They arrived at the very thing which is craved by the masses of the peoples in the occupied countries, worn out with suffering under the German jackboot.

A great contribution to the cause of struggle against German aggression is the recently concluded treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between the Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Republic.

As you see, comrades, our successes in 1943 are enormous. However, for complete victory over the enemy all of us, at the front as well as in the rear, following the leader's call, must exert all our strength and will to achieve this aim.

Comrades, men and women citizens of the Soviet Union! Red Army men, commanders and political workers!

On behalf of the Soviet Government and the Central Committee of our Party, I congratulate you upon the New Year.

Long live our Red Army which, under the leadership of Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade Stalin, in the New Year of 1944 will deal the final blow to the fascist invaders and will completely clear them from the territory of the Soviet Union.

A Happy New Year, Comrades!

The Men Who Did It

By M. Polevoy

The Dnieper crossing is already part of our folklore. A gray-haired old man who hasn't left his village, Kishensky, for God knows how many years, sang us a naive and poetic song, telling how "In the dark autumn, in bad weather, a soldier hero stepped across the Dnieper, crushing the filthy Germans."

That was only six days after the Red Army men had gained a first foothold on the right bank, but the people, in the person of this old Dnieper fisherman, had already highly appraised their exploit, was proud of them, sang about them and glorified their great achievement.

What is now merely termed "the forcing of the Dnieper" in communiques is a whole mine of invaluable material for poets, composers, novelists and playwrights. Here are some incidents from southeast of Kremenchug.

The first goes back to that autumn evening when advanced infantry units reached the left bank of the Dnieper. The cold, dark surface sparkled beyond the reeds. Lights were visible on the other side. The German sentries were warming themselves at bonfires, and snatches of their talk drifted across the river.

Sergeant Vasili Sibirtsev was ordered to swim to an island in the middle of the river and reconnoiter the German positions. He tied a strap around an armful of dry reeds, undressed, and hiding behind this float, which he pushed in front of him, he swam towards the island.

On the island he discovered only two German sentries. He could have returned, but was determined to reach the other bank and look over the German positions. He entered the water again and swam on. Some time later the bundle of reeds touched the steep clay bank.

Shivering with cold, the sergeant crept along from bonfire to bonfire, trying to impress the German dispositions on his memory. It was torture to enter the icy water again. When he reached the other side he collapsed with fatigue. He was given a glass of vodka and wrapped in several overcoats. When he came to, he gave the Commander a most detailed picture of the situation, provided exact directions for the artillerymen, and then remarked that several pontoon boats were hidden in the bushes on the other bank.

In war there is nothing more forceful than example. When Senior Sergeant Peter Kirichenko heard about the boats, he undressed, plunged into the cold water, and under cover of the fog, swam the Dnieper. He found the boats, cut the mooring ropes, lined the boats

in single file, attached one end of his belt to them and bound the other around his waist, and so towed the entire flotilla to the other side.

By dawn a ferry had been set up. The assault battalions began to cross, and captured the first inches of Soviet land on the other side.

Senior Sergeant Vladimir Belayev swam the Dnieper together with his whole platoon without waiting for the crossing. They pushed in front of them logs, boards, overturned tables, doors, anything that would float, with bundles of clothing, tommy guns, cartridges and daggers on top. When they reached the reeds on the other side the Sergeant ordered the men to dress, check arms and move quietly along the bank in single file. They climbed the steep right bank and heard a conversation in German.

They strained their eyes. Trenches and a battery stationed on an elevated green plateau over the Dnieper could be seen in the cold moonlight. German artillerymen were warming themselves at a bonfire. Belayev's platoon rushed silently out of the darkness, knives in hand, and one minute later the battery was captured. Belayev ordered his men to turn the guns westward, loaded them and the first salvo from German guns at the Germans rang out.

Belayev could not contain his joy. He jumped on the breastworks of the captured trench and shouted at the top of his voice across the Dnieper, "Hey, come across, get a move on!"

The Germans recovered from their surprise and counter-attacked. Belayev ran from gun to gun, loaded them himself, while his men handed him the shells and fired from their tommy guns. The battle was unequal. The shells ran out. Belayev was wounded, but kept at it. He crawled up to a captured machine gun. He had been in the defense of Stalin-grad and knew all there was to know about German weapons.

The enemy retreated, then surged forward again. The defenders now had nothing but their tommy guns with empty clips. At this point reinforcements arrived.

The plot of land captured by Vladimir Belayev was the base for the crossing southeast of Kremenchug.

The crossings operated uninterruptedly, ever methodically, under German fire. A handsome Uzbek Kamal Dzhamalov, was in charge of one such ferry. He made 38 trips in three days. The third trip is the one he remembers best. The shell bursts came nearer

(Continued on page eight)

25 Years of Soviet Byelorussia

By Timofei Gorbunov

January 1, 1944 marks the 25th anniversary of the day on which the Byelorussian people, after long centuries of suffering, first acquired their own State. The formation of the Byelorussian State became possible only after the Great October Socialist Revolution, which did away with social and national oppression and created a voluntary alliance of all the nationalities in Russia.

From the first days of her existence as an independent State, Byelorussia entered a fraternal alliance with Russia, the Ukraine and other Soviet Republics.

Byelorussia could not have defended her national independence from her imperialist neighbors if the great Russian people had not given her fraternal assistance. The most important phases of Byelorussia's struggle for State existence were connected with the statesmanship of Lenin and Stalin, who personally guided the formation of the Byelorussian Republic.

Enemies made many attempts to prevent the formation of the Byelorussian Republic, trying to seize its lands, towns and villages, and to enslave the people. In 1918 the German imperialists attacked Byelorussia. The people of the Republic fought valiantly against

the offensive of the Kaiser's army. The Russian people came to the aid of the Byelorussians, who had risen to wage war on the German invaders. The united forces of the Red Army, the guerrillas and all working people of Byelorussia defeated the German invaders and drove them out of the country.

On January 1, 1919, manifestos proclaimed the foundation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

But the peaceful labor of the workers and farmers of Byelorussia was soon interrupted by a new invasion. The landlords of Poland organized three campaigns against the young Soviet Republic. The Polish landlords were tempted by the possibility of seizing the lands of the Byelorussian farmers. Again the Russian people came to the help of the Byelorussians. The offensive of the White Poles was checked. The Red Army inflicted a number of defeats on the troops of White Poland and was prepared to deal fresh blows, when the Polish rulers asked the Soviet Republic for peace. On October 20, 1920, a peace treaty with Poland was signed at Riga. Although the Riga Treaty was an important victory for the Byelorussian people, who with the fraternal aid of the Soviet peo-



IN THE MOGILEV DIRECTION, BYELORUSSIA—A machine-gun crew commanded by Sergeant Volovikov supports the action of advancing Soviet infantry

Radiophoto

ples had defended their national independence, a part of Byelorussian territory remained in the possession of the Polish landlords.

After the White Polish invaders had been driven out, the Byelorussian people set about the peaceful organization of their own way of life. During the years of Soviet power tremendous creative work was achieved. Towns grew and became richer; new factories and mills were built. The industrial output of the Republic increased to 23 times that of 1913. Whole new branches of industry were organized.

Thousands of tractors and combines and tens of thousands of other agricultural machines made work easier for the Byelorussian farmers. After a year the total number of head of cattle on collective farms and in the possession of farmers increased. Living standards of the people in town and countryside improved with each passing year.

The national culture, art and literature of the Republic flourished. Twenty-six higher schools and 13,000 elementary and secondary schools were attended by over two million children and youth. There were 23 theaters and opera houses, over 1,000 cinemas, a number of museums, gardens and parks, and specially appointed palaces for children.

Those towns which came under the heel of the Polish landlords met a different fate. For 20 long, dark years the people of Western Byelorussia lived with only one thought in their minds, only one dream—to sweep away the hated frontiers which artificially divided them from their kith and kin.

At last the long-awaited hour of liberation came. In September, 1939, in response to the will of the Soviet people, the Red Army liberated the working people of Western Byelorussia and the Western Ukraine from the yoke of the Polish usurpers.

The people of Western Byelorussia themselves decided the question of the form their State was to take. The Extraordinary Fifth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR acceded to the request of the masses of the people of Western Byelorussia as well as to those of the Western Ukraine, and accepted them into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This is how the reunion of the Byelorussian peoples was effected.

Wide vistas for the further improvement of her national economy and national culture opened up before reunited Byelorussia. From the Niemen, Bug and Pripyat Rivers to the Dnieper and the Western Desna stretch the great low plains, the masses of hills and the forests of Byelorussia. On these huge expanses the Byelorussian built himself new towns, factories and mills, improved his farmlands and planted orchards. In the spring of 1941, a popular movement was begun to drain and till five million hectares of forest swamp-land. This opened up still brighter prospects for future economic development.

But on June 22, 1941 Byelorussia's peaceful labor was cut short by the treacherous attack of Hitler's hordes. Soviet Byelorussia was one of the first Republics to feel the blows of the German troops. At the approaches to its ancient cities and on the banks of its numerous rivers bloody battles took place, in which representatives of all the other peoples of the Soviet Union fought shoulder to shoulder with the Byelorussians for every inch of land.

In the course of the many centuries of their history, the Byelorussian people have experienced numerous severe trials. But the crimes now being perpetrated on the devastated Byelorussian territory by the Hitlerite invaders are not to be compared with anything in the past. An evil glow lights up the sky over occupied Byelorussia. It is the burning Byelorussian towns and villages; it is our people perishing in the fires lighted by the fascist butchers.

The towns they have razed to the ground cry out for vengeance. The places where life once bubbled over are now silent as the graveyards found in lime and rubble. The centers of Byelorussian culture have been committed to flames and destroyed. Minsk, the Governmental and cultural center of our Republic, has been devastated. The buildings of all its higher and secondary schools have been destroyed.

During the early days of the Great Patriotic War, the Byelorussian people declared sacred war against the German invaders. Since then the Hitlerites have known no peace by night or day. Over 180,000 fascist officers and men have met death on Byelorussian soil. In Minsk the guerrillas killed 1,600 civil and military officials. Von Kube, the head butcher of Byelorussia's people and Hitler's key man, did not escape the avenging hand of the guerrillas; he was blown up by a guerrilla mine.

In this great struggle, a struggle for which history has no parallel, the greatness of the Byelorussian people has been revealed in all its brilliance. The people have produced heroes whose names will go down in history. The figures of the gallant Byelorussian soldiers and guerrillas will live forever in the memory of the people: Lev Dovator, Nikolai Gastello, Victor Talalikhin, Constantine Zasloukov, Mikhail Silnitsky, Feodosi Smolyachkov, Vasili Kozlov and many others, who have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The dawn of liberation is breaking over long-suffering Byelorussia. A considerable part of the Vitebsk, Mogilev, Gomel and Polesye Regions has been liberated. The city of Gomel, Byelorussia's largest industrial center, has been freed.

Inch by inch the Red Army is liberating the soil of Byelorussia. The day is near when free Soviet Byelorussia will again shine as a splendid jewel in the brilliant cluster of the Republics of the great Soviet Union.

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN MOSCOW

By Lev Nikulin

Muscovites remember the winter of 1941-42. The Hitler hordes had only just been driven back from Moscow. At the near approaches to the Capital lay discarded German tanks, guns, armored cars and trucks. There were the burned-down villages, the ruined churches and the fresh graves of heroes who fell defending Moscow. Moscow was grim and stern, a front-line city. Through its streets sped guns and tanks; traffic lights kept the roads clear for them; limousines made way for powerful machines of war.

Muscovites also remember the second war winter of 1942-43. The Germans had been driven back, but they were still near—in some places only 150 kilometers from the Capital. Moscow still wore the appearance of a front-line city. Soldiers with anti-tank rifles rode through the city on trucks—Soviet and American. Ambulance cars stood near railroad stations. A continuous buzz of fighter planes filled the air. As dusk fell, barrage balloons were raised.

But Moscow's streets were already crowded and one saw many children who had returned from evacuation. Foreigners who had flown back to the city were astonished: was it possible the Germans were only 150 kilometers away? That one could set out for the front in the morning and return to the Capital for dinner? In the streets one saw many officers and men from the front passing through, taking advantage of the opportunity to see the Capital and even to snatch an hour to visit the Exhibit of the Patriotic War.

And now we are in the third war winter, on the eve of 1944. The enemy has been driven far from Moscow. The winter of 1943 has been a time of victory salutes. Now our streets are filled with the celebrations promised the people by Marshal Stalin in 1942. We are greeting the New Year with gladness in our hearts and faith that it will mean the end of the Nazi foes of mankind.

What do the Muscovites care that their New Year's feast will be a lean one—very different from prewar years. The streets are animated; people are carrying New Year trees; automobiles pass with fresh greenery on top. We recall the days when cars and trucks drove through the Moscow streets similarly adorned with greenery, but it was to camouflage them from air attacks.

Sverdlov Square is the liveliest in the Capital. Here are the Grand Theater, the Little Theater and several movie houses. The audiences have changed: two-thirds of the spectators are men and women in mili-

tary uniforms—airmen, tankists, infantrymen, et cetera—many with decorations. By good fortune, their furlough coincides with the holiday, and they will celebrate the New Year in Moscow. They have spent a year to 18 months in the front lines, and now on New Year's Eve they are here. What luck!

I stroll down Gorky Street, one of Moscow's main thoroughfares. Autos and trucks hurry past, some painted in camouflage colors, others in drab civilian hue. One car flies the British Flag—it is from the British Military Mission. Near the National Hotel stand two American sailors. Men in aviators' uniforms are talking French; they are from the French Normandie Squadron, happy to be visiting Moscow on New Year's Eve. One sees Czech and Polish and every other uniform near the National and Moscow Hotels. No Muscovite is surprised—we are accustomed to this fellowship of nations fighting the common enemy.

Because of the New Year, the rest day has been changed from Sunday to Saturday, January first. New Year's Eve will be celebrated at home or with friends. But Muscovites cannot forget that on this night men will be fighting and dying at the front in defense of our country. The holiday this year will be nothing like New Year's Eve in prewar times. Tens of thousands of people will greet the New Year in factories and at machines, toiling indefatigably for the front. They will turn on the radio, listen to the reports from the battlefields, then clasp one another's hands, wish one another a happy and victorious New Year and return to their work.

After one in the morning, the streets of the Capital are usually deserted; all movement and traffic are forbidden. But on New Year's Eve curfew will be lifted. There will be thousands of people in Moscow's streets and squares, now covered with a dazzling carpet of snow. But on the tall buildings the anti-aircraft crews will be keeping watch with eyes intent on the sky and ears strained for the sound of the detectors.

The streets will be filled with music from loudspeakers and with song and radio reviews especially written for New Year's Eve. At the stroke of midnight all will raise a glass—and the first toast will be to the Red Army and to victory! Recalling last New Year's Eve and the year before, the Muscovites will say: "This won't be a happy New Year for that mad dog Hitler, you may be sure of that!"

January first will be a rest day in Moscow. Then back to work and an intensified effort for victory.

Leningrad Faces the New Year

Leningrad has held out for 830 days of siege. During the past year, however, the city was not only on the defensive—in January, 1943, the troops of the Leningrad Front pierced the enemy blockade, and during the summer routed 11 enemy divisions in the Sinyavino area. In these two operations German casualties exceeded 115,000.

Since the beginning of the war the snipers of the Leningrad Front have killed over 15,000 Germans. In nine months Red Army and Baltic Fleet fliers destroyed over 1,000 enemy airplanes, and during the past year the Baltic Fleet sank dozens of enemy naval craft. The famous Leningrad ace, Major Pokryshev, Hero of the Soviet Union, has shot down 28 enemy planes. Tankman Ossachuk, who killed 570 Germans in four days of fighting, and Tommy-gunner Lapshev, who wiped out 16 Hitlerites in hand-to-hand combat, are also Heroes of the Soviet Union. During the year many thousands of officers and men fighting on the Leningrad Front have been decorated with Orders and medals.

The breach of the blockade gave Leningrad railway connections with the rest of the country. The population is now supplied with food, fuel and electricity. The citizens have gathered 60,000 tons of vegetables from their individual gardens, and farms outside of the city have yielded an even larger quantity. The water supply has been restored and cen-

tral heating repaired in 99 per cent of the dwelling houses. Over 400 kilometers of streetcar lines are in operation.

There is no one in the city who does not work, except old folk and little children. One of the outstanding events of the past year was the presentation of special medals "For the Defense of Leningrad." These were awarded not only to soldiers and officers of the Leningrad Front and to the Baltic sailors, but also to several hundred thousand civilians.

Of late the shelling of Leningrad has become heavier and more frequent. In their impotent fury the Germans and Finns hurl heavy explosive bombs and incendiary shells at houses, schools, kindergartens and hospitals. But life in the city goes on. Damaged streetcar cables are restored even before the shelling ends. Broken windows and holes in the walls are repaired, and the debris is cleared away.

The city is preparing for the systematic restoration of everything wrecked by the German barbarians. The building materials industry is extending production. Special courses of instruction have been opened to train carpenters, marble workers, decorators and gilders. Architects are working on projects for the reconstruction of the city's streets and squares.

The people of Leningrad meet the year 1944 ready for further struggle and confident of an early victory.

MEN WHO DID IT

(Continued from page four)

and nearer, then a heavy mine exploded right next to the ferry. Dzhamalov took off his cap and stuffed it into one gap, and stopped several more holes with pieces of his shirt. It was 50 yards to the shore.

Then a shell hit the ferry, but passed through the bottom without bursting. A stream of water poured into the ferry and it began to sink slowly. Dzhamalov covered the hole with his own body and landed the ferry.

Senior Lieutenant Grabchuk, commander of a pontoon company, had already been wounded three times and shell-shocked once. He was wounded a fourth time on the Dnieper. When the Germans sank several boats at the crossing at the village of Saloshino, he himself began to sail a pontoon. He steered it so brilliantly that the Germans did not hit it once. His

pontoon seemed to have a charmed life. Everyone wanted to cross by it.

After Grabchuk was wounded, the unit commander decided to evacuate him to the hospital in his car. For the first time in his life the lieutenant violated an order. He sent the car back and continued to direct the crossing.

The fighting here was not for miles, but for yards of charred, shell-pitted, blood-drenched ground. Tanks attacked gunner Mikhail Kuzmenko, who was guarding the crossing with his gun. He crippled three heavy and two medium tanks, but one Tiger moved straight on his gun, and his shells were useless against its frontal armor. The Tiger crushed Kuzmenko's gun. The gunner dodged, jumped on the tank from behind and pushed a grenade into the air shaft. The Tiger caught fire and burned out. You can still see its scorched carcass stranded on the hill between the villages of Michurin Rog and Pepelnastoye.

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Confessions of the Enemy

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Lieutenant K. F. Brandes of the German army was killed on October 24 on the right bank of the Dnieper, south of Dniepropetrovsk. On him was found a bulky notebook—a diary. It was the diary of an intelligent and educated man. Brandes was a doctor of history and literature. He read a lot and, unlike his fellows, thought a lot. The first page of

the diary bears an inscription: "In the event of my death please deliver this diary to my wife unread."

Brandes was aware that his entries would not be to the liking of his superiors. It was not a question of ideology: Brandes was a fascist. The seizure of Europe he calls "a German spring." He, like his col-



Red Army commanders questioning a German prisoner

leagues, came to Russia seeking "lebensraum." But unlike many Hitlerites, Brandes realized the collapse of his dream. It is this that lends unusual interest to his diary. I will quote excerpts from the most interesting passages.

June 28: The panzer division has been on the move since yesterday.

July 1: It will be a long time before we recover from our winter losses. A lot might be avoided if there had been less stupidity and arrogance. I choke with rage when I think of all the idiotic assertions made in these past years. We are the victims of our own propaganda. Now we are staggering as in the First World War. The beginning was splendid. A German spring dawned over Europe. But all that is a thing of the past. We are now facing the last fight for the German dream, for the aspirations of a good thousand years.

July 2: A fine summer day. The sunflowers are blooming. But I am not happy. Cologne suffered heavily. I often look at photographs of my son. How will his life shape? Will he want to be a soldier?

July 6: On days like this I cannot even think of my novel. It will soon be the fifth year and the end is not in sight. Yesterday our offensive began north of Kharkov. We have suffered enough this year; it is time to do something. Officers of the SS Division are astonished at the pessimism reigning in our division. They have picked the finest human material. Every one of their corporals would be a sergeant in our division. Moreover, they are always drinking and carousing, whereas our fellows often have not enough to eat. All the same the SS loot and rob the inhabitants for all they are worth.

July 9: Were I ten years younger I would join the SS and become an SS fuehrer. Of course they are narrow-minded and excessively optimistic. Nevertheless, in them lives the new young Germany.

July 12: The Americans have landed in Sicily. It is to be hoped they will be flung back into the sea.

July 14: Not very encouraging news. Fighting in the Belgorod and Orel areas. Heavy bombing of the Rhine. Our beautiful country is being devastated. I cannot sleep for thinking of it. Can it be the beginning of the end? Can it be that all will be lost again in the fifth year of the war? In truth we are all happy idiots and dupes. But the number of those who realize the truth is growing. The mind constantly observes signs of doom, but the heart refuses to believe them. Germany cannot renounce her aims! We are fighting for our lebensraum and for our German manner of life.

July 17: Yesterday the Russians started a big offensive in a sector of our division. The main blow was directed against the southern flank, between Petrovskaya and Izyum. Everywhere the Russians

managed to penetrate our positions. They surrounded several inhabited places. My 466th Regiment was at first in the rear, forming part of the army reserve. But by midday the situation became serious and we were sent into action. A terrible muddle reigned all day. Commands and counter commands. We threw into action even company convalescents who arrived only yesterday from Germany. One rifle to three men!

July 18: The Russians are bombing our positions and our rear area. Air combats. During the day the Russians attacked with tanks, after which the Viking SS troops went into action. Local penetrations were stemmed, but the Russian attacks are gaining in intensity. They fight very stubbornly. Our division used up all its reserves.

July 21: Early this morning the Russians launched a big attack with tanks. The commanders of both divisions were absent. The Russians advanced from the east, south and west. I managed to calm down a handful of our infantrymen and compel several artillerymen to return to their guns.

July 23: Never have I seen such a hurricane of fire. Oh, if we only had our army of 1941!

July 25: In seven days we have lost 119 men out of 246: 31 killed and 88 in the hospital, besides 36 slightly wounded.

August 1: In two terrible winters our army has melted away. How many senseless sacrifices! How happy they were to die in Poland and France. They believed in victory. The Italian tragedy is unfolding with unparalleled rapidity. Mussolini's fall is a heavy blow to us. The people are alarmed by such events. What is more, they are all tired of war and the aerial bombings are fraying their nerves. We are not very far from the verge.

August 3: We have every right to be proud of our defense. All the same, this is the first time the Russians have dared to attack in summer.

August 4: If the Russians succeed in ejecting us from their country, Russia will become stronger. Nobody will be able to cope with them then for many decades. Hamburg was heavily bombed again. Evidently 1943 intends to be the blackest year in all German history.

August 5: Gloomy news: we have surrendered Orel. Nearly two years ago I took part in the capture of that city. I then received the iron cross, second degree. Today I was presented with the iron cross, first degree. What irony!

August 7: This morning the Russians bombed our positions and the SS units passing through. A terrible sight: dead and wounded, shrieks, ruins. This was repeated every two or three hours. And on all the roads.

August 14: Hamburg is suffering most of all. Apparently a similar fate awaits Berlin.

August 15: It is absurd to say this war can last another four years. But what will be the end? What can it be? "No triumph, but death without honor." No, Germany must endure! Again I am seized with frantic rage; it is passing into hatred of the rulers. We have all forgotten how to laugh. But Germany will live, provided the born idiots do not ruin her utterly.

August 23: This morning the Russians were jubilating in their trenches. We decided they were about to attack. But it transpired that we have surrendered Kharkov. Another heavy blow. And the bombing of Germany continues.

August 24: The bombing of Berlin depressed us all. Elizabet [the diarist's wife] and I may easily find ourselves beggars. And how attached we are to our things! There you have Germany after 10 years of the National Socialist regime and four years of war! We certainly expected something different. May fate be more merciful to us than we deserve.

August 25: Himmler is Home Minister. We continue to move along our predestined path. "In the end fate cannot be averted..." Even many intelligent people think that the least attempt at independent thought is dangerous—even high treason. Yet something impels me to think it out to the end, to understand the cause. But my final conclusions I dare not confide even to my diary.

September 1: Four years ago this drama began. It is becoming a tragedy. Orel, Kharkov, and now Taganrog. Berlin again bombed. Here retreat continues. Although the front still holds, there are all the signs of flight. The agricultural leaders have to give up their implements before the reaping and harvesting is completed. Germany will not, therefore, get much. How much power is given to one man...

September 5: Plaintive and pitiful cries all over the village. Here, too, the population is being evacuated. What a pity ungarnered grass remains in the fields! Potatoes, maize, sunflowers, pumpkins... In Germany millions of homeless are tramping the roads.

September 7: We have surrendered Slavyansk. Evidently we are going to lose all of the eastern Ukraine, together with the Donbas. The bridgehead in the Kuban will likewise be unable to hold out. What we are losing now, we will never recover. Can it really be that we will lose the whole of Russia? Continuous bombings of Germany. We are all hoping now for one thing—the long promised blow at England. If that does not come off, it will mean the end.

September 8: The civilian inhabitants of this village were evacuated. There are enough sunflowers around here to keep a small town supplied with oil. The barns are crammed with oats, barley, rye and

wheat. It is all threshed, but we will be unable to carry it away. It makes one's heart ache. Some of the inhabitants are hiding in the cornfields. They don't want to leave. One can hear women groaning and children crying. When the Germans hear these wails and lamentations, they think of Germany. What treasures have been destroyed there! My thoughts keep reverting with alarm to our home in Berlin. We had so many splendid things—pictures, furniture and books.

September 9: The Donets cannot hold out. Who would have thought that the Russian offensive would prove so successful? We have just received news of Italy's unconditional surrender. The sun shines, but I would prefer that the earth be wrapped in darkness. The last act of the tragedy has begun. The winter will be a very gloomy one for us. Now an over-hasty retreat will begin. What an end after such triumph! We should have driven out our incompetent politicians long ago. We are paying for their folly and conceit. We conquered all of Europe, but success turned the Germans' heads; they became vain and supercilious. And our rulers lost all sense of proportion. In my opinion Hitler is a big personality, but he lacks depth and penetration. He is a dilettante in practically every sphere. Evidently he is a poor judge of character. Goering is perhaps the most popular of all. He is not a dogmatist, but a man of common sense. But he, too, is striding over corpses. As for Himmler's convictions and aims, they may be judged by his exterior. Goebbels is cunning but shallow—a backstairs politician, a representative of the third estate, a proletarianized Talleyrand. Funk does not look quite Aryan. He is grotesque and ugly. His frivolity and easy optimism are one of the causes of our misfortunes. Ley in external appearance resembles Funk. Vain and egotistical. Apparently the same mould. Ribbentrop is a *gentilhomme comme il faut* from the Third Reich; unmistakably bad education and breeding—a parvenu. And in the military field, too, there is not a single big figure with the exception of Rommel. If we were only strong enough to hurl the Americans into the Mediterranean and start operations against England!

September 10: Burning villages everywhere. What a misfortune we were unable to hold this fertile region at least another month. Wild pictures of flight and disorder. Retreat always costs more blood and materiel than an offensive. But why this haste? At Lozovaya we saw the chief—von Mackensen. He, too, was not distinguished by calm and restraint. When the Russians tried to break through he lost his head.

September 23: Disastrous retreat here—and not a gleam of comfort in Italy. I feel like beating my head against a wall and howling with fury. It is the frivolity and mediocrity of the megalomaniac leaders which are to blame.

September 27: On the 24th I was in Dniepropetrovsk, which was in process of being evacuated.

Many scenes of woe. Large-scale demolition operations. Sinister signs are multiplying. Supply columns and rear service troops are swelling inordinately. Yesterday I saw a regimental supply column which had no less than 950 men. The regimental commander deserves to be arrested. Why, there are not as many men in our whole regiment. And all were dragging their women and impedimenta with them. Unhappy Germany! In every way it is worse now than in 1914-1918. Our fighting strength is gone, while the Russians are growing stronger and stronger. Today alone the general committed nine men of our battalion to court-martial for running away from the Russians. What a pass we have reached in the fifth year of war. Yesterday the Russians established a bridgehead on our side of the Dnieper. For two days they have been beating off our powerful counter-attacks and inflicting heavy casualties on us.

September 28: The Russian artillery is very powerful and smashes everything. There is serious dissension between the colonel and the general. Panzer attacks and dive bombers have been of little help. The infantry is seriously weakened by heavy casualties. There are more staff officers in the ranks than privates. A complete muddle . . . The Russians are firing like mad. Dead and wounded are mounting.

September 29: I took over the First Company—a mere handful of men. There are only 26 soldiers left of a whole battalion. Formidable Russian fire has been going on for hours. We were ordered to assemble the remnants. After midday there were terrific cries that the front had been pierced. All units began to retreat and in the end broke into wild flight. I was in a small village and tried in vain to stem the flight. A terrible picture of demoralization. I was compelled to kick one young officer in the backside, but to no avail. By means of threats I managed to collect no more than 10 men.

October 3: I am commanding the First, Second and Third Companies. Actually, all three companies together consist of a handful of not more than 30 men. In our company there were twins from Alsace, who deserted to the other side and now address us through loudspeakers. The way our wounded swear! I have never heard anything like it.

October 4: Inspected our new positions. Everything would be all right if we only had soldiers. No general offensive towards the Dnieper is being planned, as we have not enough forces. On the contrary, a further breakthrough by the Russians is expected.

October 6: Yesterday we received replenishments at last and I formed an entirely new company. Nearly all elderly men. Have been writing letters to relatives of the fallen. It is astonishing how quickly many con-

sole themselves. Three wives wrote asking to have the shaving sets of their dead husbands sent to them.

October 10: One officer had a Spanish newspaper with all sorts of interesting news. I also read some entirely new opinions of Hess (his mission from Hitler). That jibes well with our utterly stupid policy. A policy made by children and fools decked in the garb of Machiavelli. We were given a distorted view of the world and of things in general for so long that we began to take our own illusions for the truth. Lively artillery activity today in the direction of Zaporozhye. They say we have already begun to blow up everything. Only not that! It will make our position here more critical than ever. After all, the receding tide must stop somewhere. And it must be here on the Dnieper.

October 15: Every action undertaken with our soldiers in the fifth year of war is risky. They fight badly. It is practically impossible to make them go into action. Zaporozhye surrendered.

October 22: I am on the run from early dawn till late at night, whipping up and encouraging the men. We must hold on, and will hold on. Toward the end of the day the Russians pierced our right flank along a wide front. Furthermore, about a hundred Russians took up positions in our rear. On the east and south we are hemmed in by the Dnieper, and the road to the west it cut. There is no hope for a big counter-attack—we haven't the reserves. We have just received orders to discard everything we cannot carry with us. That means we are to retreat again. This is too much! It is almost impossible to bear. There is a limit to everything. Oh, those idiotic politicians, who in the fifth year of war are causing our people so much suffering. Unhappy Germany!

* * *

On these words—"unhappy Germany!"—the diary breaks off. For my part, I can only say that Germany is indeed unhappy if even her best officers cannot rise above the blindness and selfish stupidity of fascism.

New Families for Red Army Men

The following letter was received by thirteen Red Army men fighting on the Karelian Front, whose homes have been destroyed by the fascists and whose families have been killed. The letter was signed by 500 members of a collective farm many hundreds of miles from the front:

In our distant Khakass village of Yuvino we write to you to say that we think of you and to tell you that you must not feel you are alone. You have been torn away from your families, but we are your new families. When you come back from the front we offer each one of you a house and a barn, sheep, geese, a garden and membership in our collective farm.

Mobility of Soviet Troops

The operations of the troops of the First Ukrainian Front are marked by a higher mobility than ever before. In spite of adverse weather and washed-out roads, Red Army men effect long marches and split the enemy lines into separate pieces, isolating German groups and disrupting their liaison and coordinated direction.

Despite their carefully organized defense near Novograd-Volynsk, the German command failed to retain the town and railway station. Here was repeated almost exactly what took place at Zhitomir, when as a result of perfectly planned and skilfully performed combined operations of Soviet tanks and infantry, the Germans fell under the threat of encirclement, and under the hail of hammer blows coming from various directions were compelled to beat a hasty retreat. To prevent the enemy from making a stand on intermediate lines, several diverting maneuvers were effected at Novograd-Volynsk which were crowned with full success. The Germans dispersed their forces and when the main blow was dealt them at an unexpected place, and when our tankmen pierced their line and rushed into the depth of the enemy dispositions, the enemy began to retreat hastily to-

wards the outskirts of Novograd-Volynsk. The town was liberated after fierce street fighting.

Now Soviet troops which have advanced far to the west hold a considerable part of the Korosten-Shepetovka railway and the whole of the Zhitomir-Novograd-Volynsk railway.

In other sectors, troops of the first Ukrainian Front have also developed the successful offensive and captured many inhabited localities, including the district centers of Olevsk, Emilchino, Dzerzhinsk and Tetiev. Despite the wooded and swampy terrain in the Olvesk area, which is very unfavorable for the offensive operations of mobile forces, our troops continue to press the enemy back, capturing rich booty. Wherever the Germans attempt to make a stand for defense and to launch counter-attacks, our troops strike blows at them, forcing the enemy to abandon his arms and transport vehicles. In the marshes and forests our troops often pick up serviceable guns, trucks and ammunition dumps abandoned by the Germans.

At strongpoints where the enemy offered particularly fierce resistance, our forces completely routed his garrisons and captured large quantities of arms.



Soviet tanks roll through a Ukrainian village

Radiophoto

MY TOWN

By **Fyodor Starovoitov**

Chairman of the Stalino City Soviet

I live in Stalino. In fact, I've spent the best part of my life at the Stalin metallurgical plant. I started as an ordinary laborer, attended an evening course in metallurgy, and soon joined the technical staff of the blast furnace department. In 1938 I was elected chairman of the City Soviet.

When the Germans were getting near Stalino I had to evacuate my family to Saratov, on the Volga. My wife is still working in the clothing factory there. My son Vladimir is employed in a war plant, and my daughter Klavdia is in the seventh grade of the Saratov Public School. I returned to Stalino alone, immediately after its liberation by the Red Army. Only a few of my former colleagues of the Stalino City Soviet were left, and so I had to fill the vacancies with men and women who, though not elected deputies, were respected by the local people.

The Germans devastated Stalino, as they did the other industrial towns of the Donbas. There was not a single large building still standing in Artem Street. The students' dormitory, which occupied an entire block, the City Soviet Building, the school children's beautiful Pioneer Palace, the Donets Industrial College, the new Post Office, the Preobrazhenskaya Church, the branch offices of the State Bank, several chemists' shops, the offices of the Stalino coal trust and scores of other municipal institutions and houses were either burned down or blown up by the Nazis on the eve of their retreat.

The local people responded to our appeal to clear the streets, which were choked with debris, bricks, stones, plaster, splintered glass, charred timber and ashes. In a few days the main streets and public squares had all been cleared of rubbish, and we were beginning to get the schools, hospitals and stores going. The women did wonderfully. They adapted premises for temporary schools and scoured the town for tables, benches and other furniture.

Within a month we had opened 65 schools, 56 dispensaries, polyclinics and hospitals, 14 children's homes, nurseries and kindergartens, 64 shops, 23 bakeries, 18 restaurants, 28 hairdressers and barber shops, and dozens of depots for repairs to shoes and clothing. Spoons, saucepans, buckets, brooms, tables, chairs and other household items were being produced to restock our homes.

Local transport will function in the near future. The Germans destroyed all our power stations and removed streetcars and trolley-buses to Germany. It will cost us a great deal of time and money to restore the transport services completely.

We Stalino people used to be very proud of our parks. Our flower displays were perhaps the finest in the Donbas. The Germans destroyed our gardens. But we are planting them again and collecting flower seeds.

We are not afraid of the difficulties. Our people are delighted to have the opportunity to work for themselves again, and the Soviet Government and people are lending us a helping hand. They send us gifts every day. We've just had a hundred tons of fish from Daghestan, on the Caspian, and a truckload of medicines from Moscow. Telegrams pour into my office, advising me of the dispatch of machinery, cattle, bread, tools, crockery, clothing and so on from our friends in Siberia, Kazakhstan and the Urals.



Hundreds of thousands of Soviet youth are at present training in militarized ski races and cross-country runs

THE SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK TREATY

The following article appeared in Number 14 of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

The treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between the Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Republic represents an important historic stage in the development of the friendship between the two Slav nations, which jointly with other freedom-loving nations are fighting the common foe—Hitler Germany.

The historical friendship of the two countries found expression in the Treaty of Mutual Assistance concluded May 16, 1935 in Prague. The Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty, taken in conjunction with the Franco-Soviet and Franco-Czechoslovak Treaties of Mutual Assistance could and should have constituted a reliable bulwark and guarantee of peace in Europe, and above all, of the security of the Czechoslovak Republic, which was being threatened by Hitler aggression. Naturally this treaty was hailed with satisfaction by the Czechoslovak people and by the people of other freedom-loving countries. It is not surprising that the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty has provoked the rabid fury of the enemies of peace and advocates of the "isolation" of the USSR.

The Soviet Union never recognized the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia as a result of the Munich deal, just as it did not and does not recognize the annexation of Czechoslovak territory by Poland and Hungary. As we know, the British Government and the French Committee of National Liberation annulled the Munich agreement during the course of the war.

The USSR remained a friend of Czechoslovakia after the Munich tragedy. It vigorously condemned Hitler Germany's second act of aggression toward the Czechoslovak nation committed on March 15, 1939. Immediately following the entry of German troops into Prague, on March 17, 1939, the USSR in a note handed to the German Embassy declared: "The Soviet Government refuses to recognize the incorporation into the German Reich of Czechia, and likewise, in one form or another, of Slovakia."

Hitler Germany's nefarious attack on the USSR converted the traditional friendship of the Soviet and Czechoslovak peoples into a single, militant alliance against a common enemy. On July 18, 1941, an Agreement for Joint Action in the War Against Germany was concluded in London between the USSR and the Government of Czechoslovakia, headed by President Benes. This agreement marked a new stage in the relations and friendship of the two States. It signified the entry—on an equal footing—of Czechoslovakia, which was fighting for its liberty, into the great coalition of freedom-loving nations united in the

fight against the Hitler barbarians. It reaffirmed the fact that the Czechoslovak people were in a state of war with Hitler Germany.

The agreement laid the foundation for military cooperation between the two countries. The Soviet Government agreed to the formation of Czechoslovak national units on the territory of the Soviet Union. These units are fighting the common enemy on the Soviet-German front, shoulder-to-shoulder with the Red Army. The fighting qualities of these units and their services have been recognized by the granting of high Soviet decorations.

The new treaty was concluded at a momentous juncture. The Red Army's victories, which have badly shattered Hitler's war machine, and the successes of our Allies have brought about a radical change in the course of the war, which is now entering its final stage. At the Teheran Conference of the leaders of the Three Allied Powers—Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill—plans were endorsed for dealing the enemy joint blows from the east, west and south. The impending attack will be relentless and annihilating. We can already discern the outlines of the coming victory, which will bring liberation to the nations subjugated by Germany, including Czechoslovakia.

It was precisely at this juncture that the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia deemed it necessary to reaffirm and exemplify their existing relations by a new treaty concluded for a term of 20 years.

The treaty affirms the reciprocal obligation of the two countries to accord one another military assistance in the present war with Germany and her satellites, thereby serving the common cause of the entire anti-Hitler coalition. At the same time the treaty extends the principle of military cooperation and mutual assistance to the postwar period, thus becoming an effective instrument for guaranteeing the security of Eastern Europe.

One of the cardinal tasks of the USSR and its Allies, after Hitler Germany has been defeated, will be the creation of a system of general security which will preclude the possibility of new acts of aggression on the part of Germany. The victory over Germany in the last war was not consummated by the creation of an effective system of general security. The result was that the German imperialists were able, after a lapse of less than a quarter of a century, to exploit the antagonisms in the camp of their former adversaries and the weakness of the postwar organization of Europe, and to plunge the nations of the world once more into chaos.

The Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty proceeds from the

necessity of taking measures now to avert the threat of new German aggression in the East and to create an effective system of collaboration which will guarantee security in Eastern Europe. The treaty between the USSR and Czechoslovakia, which have a common frontier along the Carpathians, constitutes, as President Benes expressed it, one "of the links in the future system which will be beneficial to us and all our Allies and will help to consolidate peace in Europe."

The treaty is valuable not only because it provides for military cooperation during the war; no less important is the fact that the USSR and Czechoslovakia have already outlined the principles for all-round cooperation between the two countries after the war. The treaty affirms the readiness of the USSR and of Czechoslovakia to develop postwar economic cooperation on the widest possible scale.

The Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty thus lays the foundation for future relations between a great power and a small country, and it demonstrates the possibility of the participation of the small countries of Europe in a system of universal security without artificial and impracticable "federations" and other such combinations.

Particularly important for the creation of a system of European security, in which all the members of the

anti-Hitler coalition are interested, is the protocol annexed to the treaty. This protocol envisages the possibility of a third country bordering on the USSR or Czechoslovakia, and constituting an object of German aggression in this war, to adhere to the treaty of its own free will. In this connection various conjectures have been advanced in the foreign press regarding the possibility of Poland, which is a neighbor of the USSR and Czechoslovakia, joining the treaty. Of course the realization of this possibility depends upon Poland's foreign policy.

The treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia is a valuable contribution to the common struggle against Hitlerism and to the insuring of postwar cooperation and general security. The conclusion of the treaty provoked a new outburst of fury on the part of the common enemy and of all who have a hand in the misdeeds and brigandage perpetrated against the Czechoslovak nation.

The peoples of the anti-Hitler coalition hail with satisfaction the fruitful results of the Soviet-Czechoslovak negotiations and the further strengthening of Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship. There can be no doubt that for the Czechoslovak people the treaty will be a fresh stimulus to the intensification of the national liberation struggle against the German invaders.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By B. Shatrov

The following article appeared in Number 14 of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

The declaration on security by the four nations, published in connection with the Moscow Conference of the three Foreign Secretaries, states that "they recognize the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality of peace-loving states and open to membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security."

As we know, after the First World War an attempt was made to establish an international organization for the maintenance of peace and security. This was the League of Nations. The League existed for about 20 years. Conceived at the time of the Versailles Treaty, it virtually terminated its existence simultaneously with the latter. Although the League was not formally dissolved, for all practical purposes it ceased to exist with the outbreak of the Second World War.

Now that the United Nations are approaching the moment of final victory over Hitler and his associates

and are preparing to create a system of international relations which will most effectively insure the freedom-loving nations against aggressive attempts on their liberty and independence and will guarantee enduring peace, it is particularly important to examine the reasons for the failure of the first organization whose task it was to insure general security.

Before proceeding to analyze the reasons for the collapse of the League of Nations, it would be well to disclose the real meaning and political significance of the position that the League of Nations existed independently as an organization, separate and distinct from the general body of states belonging to it. Such statements as "the League of Nations decided," "the League of Nations betrayed its weakness," et cetera, served for many years as an evasion of responsibility for political decisions by various governments (chiefly the prewar governments of Great Britain and France), which with the help of such statements took refuge behind the screen of the mythical independence of the League of Nations.

It should be borne in mind that never throughout all its existence did the League of Nations adopt—and by virtue of its structure, it could not adopt—a

single decision with which the principal and leading governments in the League were not in agreement. Such decisions would be impossible. That is why a criticism of the political activities of the League during the 20 years of its existence must necessarily be at the same time a criticism of the foreign policy of the states which played a leading role in the League.

When the League of Nations was created (and even prior to its creation), the authors of its Covenant endowed the League with the character of a world organization, whose function it was to regulate international relations and conflicts, irrespective of the part of the world in which they might arise. Nevertheless, precisely in this connection, at its very inception the League of Nations was endowed with two fundamental defects which laid a decisive impress on all its subsequent activities. Firstly, the original membership of the League of Nations did not include the Soviet Republic, which as we know joined the League only in 1934—that is, not until 14 years after its birth. Secondly, the membership of the League did not include the United States of America.

These two circumstances were quite enough to deprive the League of all effective power as an institution capable of regulating international conflicts and international relations.

The non-participation of the United States in the League lent the latter a European rather than a world character.

Naturally, no less significant was the absence of the Soviet Union from the League in the first 14 years of its existence, during which period the League frankly served as an instrument of anti-Soviet policy. This undermined its prestige as an international organization whose mission was to administer peace and security.

When examining the reasons for the failure of the League, two problems must be distinguished: the policy of the leading states in the League, and the defects of the League as an organization. There can be no two opinions but that responsibility for the League's failures rests with the leading states that belonged to it and directed it, and not with the League's Covenant. There can be no doubt that, in the main, the Covenant afforded the possibility of pursuing a policy of general security. If that policy was not pursued and was sabotaged in every way, the fault does not lie with the provisions of the League's Covenant.

The governments of the leading states in the League at that period, far from taking advantage of its Covenant and the opportunities it afforded for promoting genuine collective security, contributed in every way to converting the Covenant into an obstacle to the struggle against aggression. It was with

this purpose that they took advantage of the shortcomings of the Covenant and still further aggravated them.

A grave defect of the Covenant, and one which paralyzed all efforts at effective regulation of international relations, was the demand that all political decisions of the League should be unanimous. This demand, which proceeded from the pseudo-democratic idea that the equality of nations demanded unanimous agreement on every decision, made it possible for certain small nations to play a role in the League altogether disproportionate to the part they played in world politics.

In many cases this demand for unanimity made it impossible to adopt decisions consonant with the importance of the questions involved. Often enough the resistance of several small nations—who incidentally were absolutely uninterested in the questions under discussion—prevented other states from acting on and settling on their merits the problems confronting them. The effect of the demand for unanimity was that, to reach it, resolutions had to be couched in the most general and elastic terms, in order that the contesting sides, not having reached agreement, might nevertheless be able to vote for the resolutions.

Another effect of the demand for unanimity was that the aggressor states who were interested in weakening the League usually had their direct agents among the representatives of the small nations, who obediently carried out their orders and did their utmost to prevent decisions being reached.

When examining the activities of the League of Nations throughout its existence, it should be borne in mind that the leading states systematically removed from its jurisdiction the cardinal political problems of international relations in the period of 1920-40. These important questions were entrusted at different periods to some or other body, upon whom the responsibility for settling them was laid.

In the early period of the League's existence, such a body was the Allied Supreme Council. It was this body which distributed Germany's colonies, and all that was left to the League was to sanction the distribution. When the Supreme Council was dissolved, it was replaced by the Conference of Ambassadors. The problem of naval armaments was entirely removed from the jurisdiction of the League. It was examined successively by the Washington Conference of 1921-22, by the Tri-Partite Naval Conference in Geneva in 1927, and by the London Naval Conference in 1930. Similarly, the League was denied the power to examine and decide on the question of German and Italian armed intervention in Spain at the time of General Franco's mutiny. Thus the leading states quite deliberately circumscribed the political functions of the League by removing from its jurisdiction the cardinal problems of international policy.

It is a common thing to accuse the League of weakness due to the fact that it did not possess its own armed forces for use against the aggressor. But the trouble was not that the League did not possess its own armed forces. Article 16 of the Covenant, which provides for the adoption of military sanctions toward an aggressor, proceeded from the principle that in the event of the League deciding to resort to sanctions, every state was to place part of its armed forces at the League's disposal. Thus the trouble was not that the League had no armed forces of its own, but that the leading states were reluctant to employ the weapon of military sanctions.

After the employment of military sanctions was renounced, the League was still able to resort to economic sanctions. Such sanctions, as we know, were employed only once—against Italy in 1935. What was the result? The leading states of the League, faithful to their policy of yielding to the aggressor, declined to employ against Italy the most effective form of economic sanctions, such as the closing of the Suez Canal to Italian ships, on the one hand, and the ban on oil imports to Italy on the other. After this it is not surprising that the whole system of economic sanctions in relation to Italy did not yield the desired results and did not prevent Italy from piratically seizing Abyssinia.

To sum up:

The League of Nations was associated in most intimate fashion with the whole international policy pursued by the victor powers in the period between the First and Second World Wars. It was precisely because of this that both in its structure and activities it reflected the fundamental political trends of these powers. In the first 14 years of the League's existence, its activities reproduced the anti-Soviet tendency of its leading members. When in 1939 this tendency of the then ruling circles of England and France again assumed an acute form, the League of Nations reflected it and, as we know, decided to expel the Soviet Union from its membership. In 1933 and onward, the League likewise reflected the political tendency of the leading states in respect to the so-called "policy of non-intervention," which amounted to a systematic attempt to come to terms with the aggressors. Naturally, neither the former nor the latter political tendency was calculated to contribute to the consolidation of peace and security.

On the other hand the League Covenant, and in particular the demand for unanimity in decisions on political questions, made it perfectly possible to frustrate all action by the League, whether against the aggressor states which acted both themselves and through their agents in the League, or against the states which evaded adopting effective decisions, playing into the hands of the aggressor and seeking to compromise with him.

The League of Nations as an international organization proved incapable of bridling the aggressors and guaranteeing peace. In the most grave and crucial moments of history, when direct threats of unprovoked aggression arose, the League of Nations refrained from serving the aims which it had itself proclaimed. Instead of a policy of effective resistance to the aggressors, it pursued a policy of "appeasing" the aggressors. This policy and the League's impotence contributed to the fateful denouement—the outbreak of the Second World War, instigated by the most predatory of the aggressors, Hitler Germany.

The policy of conniving at aggression and of propitiating the aggressors cost mankind too dear for any loophole to be allowed for a revival of that policy. When the time comes to draw up the statutes of the international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security mentioned in the declaration of the four nations published as a result of the Moscow Conference, account will have to be taken of all the mistakes in the organization and activities of the old League of Nations, in order that these mistakes may never be repeated.

Of course, it will not only be a question of not repeating the old mistakes, but also of creating an international organization which will possess real and solid power to insure enduring peace. In the conditions of today and the immediate future, it is the historically arisen leading role of the great democratic powers—the Soviet Union, Great Britain, the United States and China—which is and will be the basic factor in the organization of a stable peace and security.

The Teheran Declaration of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain will "seek the cooperation and active participation of all countries, large and small, whose peoples are in heart and soul dedicated, as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance." The international organization to be created after the war must be a firm bulwark for all peace-loving nations and enjoy the necessary authority. But to do so it must possess sufficient power to frustrate any attempt to shake the stability, peace and friendly cooperation of nations.

Award and Advancement

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded the Order of Kutuzov, First Degree, to Lieutenant General Filip Starikov, in appreciation of his successful direction of military operations against the German-fascist invaders.

* * *

The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has promoted Alexander Yakovlev to the rank of Lieutenant General of the Engineering Air Service. Yakovlev holds the post of Deputy People's Commissar of the Aircraft Industry and is the designer of the Yakovlev fighting planes.

FUTILE PREVARICATIONS

The following appeared in Number 14 of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

Finland's ruling circles are obviously disturbed by the Red Army's successes. They sense the inevitable collapse of their insensate adventure and are feverishly seeking a way out of the impasse into which they have led their country.

The Finnish diplomats and Finnish press have lately been persistently trying to persuade the world that Finland does not and never did cherish or have any schemes of conquest and that they are generally waging a "separate" war independently of Hitler. According to the Social Democratic swindlers, there are in Finland true "hotheads," of the Lapuas, who incautiously advance "extreme" demands and sympathize with Berlin; that these are "irresponsible elements" for whom Finland cannot be held answerable.

The Soviet public is fully aware of the true value of these clumsy and absurd prevarications. It is hard to believe that anybody in the camp of the anti-Hitler coalition can be fooled by these sophistries. However, the Finnish press and Finnish "statesmen" obstinately persist in their course.

Before us lies Secret Instruction No. 1,633 of the staff of the Finnish Maaselg Army Group, dated July 27, 1943, and signed by chief of staff Colonel Kai Savonius. This is one of many similar documents which have fallen into the hands of the Red Army on the Karelian Front. The instructions deal with the "military importance of Eastern Karelia." With a candor which leaves no room for doubt, Colonel Savonius, acting on instructions from the higher command, gives orders that the official government program on the Karelian question "should at the earliest opportunity be brought to the attention of the personnel of every unit, either in a study circle or by reading."

This program provides for the "incorporation of Eastern Karelia into Finland" and the seizure of the Murmansk railway. "The new state frontiers must be carried deeper beyond the main defense line, as Finland must receive a sufficiently wide forefield east of the favorable main defense line." The Finnish government's imperialist claim to old established Soviet territory is convincingly borne out by the documents quoted. It is appropriate to remind the reader that this instruction was dated July, 1943, a time



LENINGRAD—Stretcher-bearers remove another victim of the German and Finnish shelling of the city

Radiophoto

when peace bells were being rung in Helsingfors for all they were worth. In the light of this document, how pitiful are the desperate attempts of Finnish diplomats to present Finland's foreign policy in "peaceable" guise.

But this is not all. Before us is also Circular Letter No. 1-143 of the Finnish "Front League of SS Brothers-in-Arms," that is, the vanguard of the Finnish Hitlerites. It is dated October 9, 1943 and signed by the president of the League, Lieutenant Colonel Kalervo Kurniala and its secretary, Jukka Tirkke, a war department official. Perhaps this is an illegal band of conspirators? No. No, this League, which has its headquarters at No. Two Debewn Street, Helsingfors, makes no secret of its intimate contacts with the Finnish war ministry. Evidently it is for this reason that the League calls

upon its members "to be cautious both in their public utterances and in their letters," for "ill-considered actions may damage our cause."

Where does this fascist organization get its instructions? From General Steiner in Berlin—that is, from Himmler's headquarters. Not for nothing is this fascist League concerned about "maintaining constant contact with Germany," and has on its board a German representative, a "fuersorgeroffizier," who finances the League. Such in practice is the "separate war," the "independent policy" of "the little Northern democracy."

Hitler's vassals, the ill-starred Finnish diplomats and Social Democrats, would do well to abandon their absurd and futile prevarications and call a spade a spade.

DAY SANATORIUM FOR CHILDREN

By A. Dobrinskaya

A flat in Moscow. . . . It might be any flat, in any street. The bell rings. A woman is standing there.

"Are you Volodya Burenkov's mother, please?"

Yes, she is. And here's Volodya, poking his head inquisitively around the door. He's back home in Moscow after a year's evacuation far away in Uzbekistan. And the caller is the woman doctor from the child welfare center in the Moskvoretsky District. "We heard he was back," she explains. "How's the rheumatism?" Better than it was, says the mother. But the child's still not quite well. The mother arranges to take him regularly to the clinic for observation.

That is typical of the "after-care" provided by child welfare center No. 10, in the Moskvoretsky District, which opened its doors in 1918, on the first anniversary of the October Revolution. It has under observation more than 20,000 children from three to 14 years of age. Children with a history of poor health are constantly under the doctor's eye. If a child for some reason or other fails to appear for the periodical examination, the doctor or nurse goes to the home.

The center provides a complete service, both curative and preventive. Many forms of medical treatment are available at the clinic. If necessary, the doctors refer the child to a specialized hospital, or for a stay in a sanatorium. When the patient returns home, the center takes over and provides proper after-care. The distribution of extra nourishment to delicate children is one of the center's responsibilities.

There is also a day sanatorium for delicate children. This interesting experiment began in 1922, and has been remarkably successful. There is accommodation for 70 to 75 children, ranging from seven to 14. Every child stays six hours a day for a period of two months. This term may be extended to three months if the child's health demands it.

The patients arrive at 8 A. M. First of all the nurse looks them over. Physical exercises, baths and breakfast follow. After breakfast the children rest for an hour and a half, lying on the open veranda. They take their rest outdoors all the year round, in the winter in fur-lined sleeping bags. From 11 o'clock until dinner, at 1 P. M., they either play in the garden, if the weather is fine, or entertain themselves indoors.

Leningrad Factories Busy

Leningrad industry and cooperative producers are turning out over 100 different articles, from matches to warm footwear and garden implements; the year's plan has been fulfilled ahead of schedule. Factories and plants are steadily increasing their output, and the industries for which the city was famous before the war are being restored.

Schools and 11 institutes of higher education are open. During the past year conferences and meetings were held in the Leningrad Scientists Club in memory of the great physiologist, Ivan Pavlov; of Isaac Newton, Lobachevsky, Tolstoy and others.

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Work of Largest Moscow Munitions Plant

A Soviet press correspondent recently visited Fedor Taranichev, director of the largest munitions plant in Moscow—and one of the largest in the USSR—who discussed the work of his plant since the beginning of the war. The correspondent's report of the interview follows:

The office of the director of this great plant con-

tained only the barest essentials; no easy chairs or other evidences of comfort. On the desk was a single telephone linking the factory chief directly with the executive heads of this particular branch of industry, and an intercommunicating system by means of which he could speak to the chief superintendents of all shops and check up on the work of any section without leaving his office. On a nearby table stood



German supply train captured by Soviet troops

various models, and there was a bust of Stalin in one corner.

Fedor Taranichev is a quiet man who speaks in a calm, confident voice. On his blue tunic are four Government decorations. One feels that he has experienced much, accomplished much, and that difficulties do not daunt him. I asked about the wartime work of his plant.

"How shall I begin?" he asked. "Perhaps I had better start with the evacuation of our plant from Moscow during the trying days of 1941. The Germans were getting nearer to the Capital and in November I received the order to evacuate to the east.

"All the time we were dismantling the machinery the Germans were bombing the city. During one raid a hundred incendiary bombs dropped on the wooden roof of one of our buildings, but the efficiency of the workers prevented a fire breaking out. We were able to load all the machinery safely onto flatcars, and the workers and their families accompanied it in boxcars.

"To give you an idea of the amount of machinery and number of workers evacuated, I can say that our foremen, engineers, technicians and their families alone filled an entire train. About our actual journey I would rather not talk; it is too painful even to recollect. You see . . . this was our retreat . . . our whole plant was retreating, and we were bitterly conscious of it. In addition, the boxcars were overcrowded, there was a shortage of provisions, and the winter had already made itself felt.

"Our new home in the east was a very inhospitable-looking spot. There were no mechanical means for unloading the equipment; the workers had to rely on their bare hands to remove machines weighing several tons. But within a few weeks this equipment had been reassembled at one of the local plants and was aiding this plant in turning out production.

"Our working conditions were extremely difficult. The shops where the main equipment was mounted were so cold the water used for cooling the machines would freeze solid. The problem of food was particularly bad—there was nothing but bread. The dormitories were unheated. But although the workers were short of food and sleep, every one stuck to his post, coming from the freezing dormitories to the equally icy factory shops and turning out supplies for war."

The director broke off his story for a moment, as if surprised that such difficulties had really been overcome.

"Yes," he resumed, "it is only sublime love of country that enabled us to withstand such hardships.

"Then happier days came. The Germans were smashed at the gates of Moscow . . . and we knew we would soon be going home. In March of 1942 I was already back in Moscow with my assistants, and by April our equipment was on the road. And again we unloaded it all by ourselves . . . except for a part that we had left with the eastern plant.

"The installation of our equipment, which in normal times would have required six months, was accomplished in six days and the plant resumed work. Actually, some lathes were installed and operating the same day they arrived.

"At that time there were no individual industries in the area able to produce any of the parts for us. So we not only had the problem of relaunching the plant, but were forced, while actually working, to make a big change-over. Before the war we had produced machine-tools, but now, in addition to lathes, we had to turn out large quantities of munitions."

Here I asked a question: "But in producing lathes you helped to increase the output of other plants, munition plants included?"

"Exactly," he said, with animation. "And that is what was done in the United States. But they could do it there, because the Soviet Union was bearing the brunt of the fight. But for us to repel the onslaught of the Hitler armies and win such battles as those of Moscow and Stalingrad . . . or to conduct the offensives of today . . . our army needed a colossal amount of munitions. Therefore it was essential, for the common interest, that part of our lathe engineering works be switched over to the production of the munitions which our army needed then . . . and now. We also need lathes, of course—so far the American shipments of lathes are far from compensating for the deficit suffered by our industry as a result of the lathe engineering switching over to front-line orders. As for our needs tomorrow," he added, "I am not even speaking of that."

"What have been the results of the change-over in the main item of your production?"

"We are already producing four times as much munitions as at the beginning of 1943. But the front needs still more . . . and our plan has been continually increased. But we felt that the strained efforts of our workers and technicians would not be able to accomplish the plan, and we switched over to the conveyor method of mass production. Thanks to this reorganization and also to the efficiency proposals and inventions suggested by our workers and engineers, we were able in the third quarter of 1943—without any extension of the shops whatever—to increase our munitions output by 60 to 70 per cent as compared with 1942. Besides, we have produced several new models of lathes never built before; also new mechanical equipment.



Tankman Sergeant Ayat-sky loads up for another encounter with the enemy. The Sergeant previously had to his credit five German tanks and 12 guns destroyed and some 150 Hitlerites killed. He has added to this score another tank and two guns—but as to the number of Nazis recently run down and killed, he has had no time to count them

"For three months now,"—the director spoke proudly—"our plant has been steadily holding the transient Challenge Red Banner awarded by the State Committee of Defense for the best plant in each branch of industry. With the Challenge Red Banner a monthly bonus of 450,000 rubles is allotted our plant from the State. Fifty per cent of this sum is given to workers and technicians as bonuses, and the remaining 50 per cent expended on cultural and welfare needs. So you see, we have some achievements to our credit."

"To what factors do you attribute these achievements?"

"As I explained," the director replied, "in 1943 we changed over to the conveyor method of production. Our engineers spared no efforts to increase output and improve technology. But our achievements are mainly due to the labor and heroism of the workers."

"To really appreciate this, you should visit our shops and chat with the workers. The war has caused special difficulties with regard to personnel; I need only say that our entire personnel is practically new. Most of our workers today are young people of 14 to 16—adolescents. These young people have had no special training; we had to teach them in our stride."

"As a rule they work six hours daily, but pretty often we have to avail ourselves of Government permission to temporarily extend their working day to eight hours. Only yesterday I was obliged to sign such an order for the young workers of one of our shops. It was painful, but what could I do? Our adults work eight hours a day, and in some shops

even eleven. Our plant works 24 hours daily, seven days a week, with only two days off each month."

"Our foremen, shop superintendents, engineers and technicians are housed on the factory grounds and they also have only two days off monthly to visit their families. They usually leave the factory on Saturday night, and on Monday morning at five o'clock they must be back on the job."

"This severe regimen tells on the workers' health, of course. We have had to open a prophylactorium accommodating 100 workers. The weaker and more exhausted remain in the institution for one month, and tubercular patients for two months. Statistics show that workers usually put on 12 to 15 pounds in weight during their stay there."

"We also give special attention to the needs of the workers' children. We have a kindergarten accommodating 250 children and a nursery for 100. This year we even managed to send the children to the country for four months. It was a real joy to see how the mothers, overstrained with exacting work, welcomed back their healthy and rosy-cheeked children, who had all put on weight."

"Every effort is made to improve the food supply for our personnel. This year we have an auxiliary farm which provides our factory dining room with potatoes, beets and cabbage. We have also raised a number of cows, and the butter and milk goes to our prophylactorium, the nursery and kindergarten and to individual ailing workers."

"This year all workers had their own individual

gardens, and after an 11-hour working day did an additional three or four hours of gardening in the evening. For the engineering and the technical staff, who actually live at the factory, we arranged for a 25-acre garden plot which was cultivated by farmers hired for the purpose. We gathered 180 tons of potatoes, of which we gave 45 tons to the families of men from our plant who had joined the Red Army."

"You have been telling me about the intense efforts of the workers—how about the officials? How do you work?"

"As for us," the director smiled, "we try not to lag behind the workers. Here is my workday: I am in my office at nine o'clock in the morning. At 9:30 I check, by way of the intercommunicating system, on the work of the night-shift in the shops. Then I make the rounds of the shops where munitions are produced and personally verify the schedule of output. This keeps me busy until three, when I take an hour for lunch—usually cut down to less.

"Then I have a conference of executives and shop superintendents. There are a multitude of matters which need attention, and which keep me busy until 10 or 11 o'clock in the evening. Finally I check up on the day and evening shifts, which occupies me until two o'clock in the morning—and sometimes later—after which I head for my bedroom, which is right here . . ." and he opens a door leading from his office.

"But have you no family?"

"My wife died in 1938. I have three young children who are with my father. I see them only on Sundays, for not more than two hours. I have no days off, and the last time I had a vacation was in 1939. The work, of course, keeps one tense and strained and tells on the nerves—it isn't surprising that my health is not too good. When my friends came around not long ago to drink my health after I had received an award, I could only sit and imbibe milk!"

"How long have you been with the plant?"

"I began work in 1923, as a fitter. At the same time I attended the technical training courses. In 1929 I was made foreman, in 1931 I was chief of the supplies department, then deputy superintendent of the machine shop, and in 1936 I became director. There you have my whole story.

"I should advise you now to go and have a chat with the workers in one of our shops. They will tell you how we are working, and you will better appreciate what a hard job we had to attain our present level of achievement."

The director rang for his secretary, and asked her to take me to one of the shops. After a long walk through the factory grounds we finally entered a shop where everything seemed to be noise and dust. With few exceptions, all those tending the machines

were girls of 14 to 16 years. Most were standing on low stools, as the lathes were too high for them.

At one of the lathes I saw a pale young girl deftly remove a piece of work from her machine, pick up another piece, make some mysterious manipulations and place it in the machine. I asked the shop superintendent's permission to chat with this young worker for a few moments. I asked her to tell me something of herself and her work.

"My name is Valya Rozhina," she said shyly. "I was born in Moscow in 1928. My father was a turner . . . he died of pleurisy during the war. I was attending school No. 583 and had finished the fourth class. Then the war broke out and our school was closed and I started to work here, where my father was a turner. In the first six months I hauled boxes of munitions; then I was transferred to this lathe. Three of us tend it.

"I work six and sometimes eight hours a day, depending on how many pieces must be turned out. Starting today and until the first of the month, I'll be working eight hours. I started at eight and worked until 11:30, when I stopped for dinner."

"And what did you have for dinner?"

"I don't take my meals in the factory dining room. I brought my lunch in a glass jar—boiled potatoes and two pieces of buttered bread."

"And do you manage to turn out your quota?"

"I overfulfil it. I am supposed to do 600 pieces in six hours, but I turn out 800, and since I am working eight hours today I will do 1,000."

She saw me looking at her red, scratched hands, and smiled.

"The pieces are all so rough, they cut my hands. It's hard work. Very little time off—two days a month. But I hate to lag behind. The girls over there at the next lathe didn't fulfil their plan in the second 10-day period. To shame them we hung a sign over their lathes."

I went over to read the sign. It was in the form of a letter: . . . *Dear Red Army Men: Would you mind postponing your offensive, please. We are not ready yet. Wait till we send you the munitions. Please wait. Signed . . . Valya Serebrenikova, Nata Morozova, Vera Strunikova.*

I bade Valya goodbye, with a feeling of profound respect for this young Russian girl who spoke so simply and artlessly of herself and her work. And it is sad to think that this youthful worker . . . still practically a child . . . would in peacetime be at her desk in school, instead of at a factory bench.

SUCSESSES OF UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

In 1943 hundreds of thousands of young men, without leaving important work in factories and agriculture in the Soviet rear, have mastered the fundamentals of military art at the universal military training centers, which recently celebrated two years of activity.

Over half of the men in the heroic 129th Orel Infantry Division were trained in the universal training centers of the Zheleznodorozhny district of Moscow. Thousands of trainees of these courses participated in the forcing of the Dnieper and the liberation of Ukrainian and Byelorussian territory. There are already several Heroes of the Soviet Union among the men who trained at these centers, among them a Georgian, Nikolai Gogichaishvili; a Kirghizian, Chalnobai Tumaberdiev; the four gallant men who were among the first to cross the Dnieper: Nikolai Petukhov, Vasili Ivanov, Ivan Semenov and Vasili Sysolyatin; an Uzbek sergeant, Gataulla Salikhov, and others.

In 1943 the universal military training centers, which now number thousands in all the towns and large villages of the USSR, trained specialists in all arms—snipers, tank destroyers, light and heavy machine gunners, tommy gunners, trench-mortarmen, radio operators and sappers. Special mountain infantry detachments were developed in the mountains of the Caucasus and the Pamirs, while skiers' detachments were trained in the North.

This year the number of citizens undergoing military training in the Soviet rear will be considerably increased by the population of the towns and districts liberated from the German occupationists. Reserves of thousands of men have been prepared for the Red Army in the Rostov and Stalingrad Regions and in the area of Krasnodar.

On the eve of the New Year, most of the universal military training centers graduated new contingents of men. Beginning in January, other contingents will be trained under winter conditions approximating as closely as possible those of actual battle.



Ski training in forest areas

Cooperation of Cavalry and Ski Troops

Advancing Soviet troops are striking hard and continuous blows at the Germans first in one spot, then in another, firmly retaining the initiative and keeping the enemy guessing as to where the next blow will fall. Assault groups mounted on skis and moving along the shores of lakes and through forests break through to the German rear and play havoc with enemy defenses. Cavalry troops are also acting with the ski troops. It was the cavalry who first emerged in the Vitebsk direction. How little the Germans expected them is shown by the fact that when they reached the railway a German troop train was slowly puffing its way uphill. A few shells from Soviet guns following the cavalry formations blew up the track and locomotive.

The sight of the Russian cavalry with their flying capes and fur hats struck terror into the Germans.

With cries of "Russ! Russ Cossacks!" they scampered from the cars. A German armored train sped from the direction of Polotsk to the scene of the engagement. After a fierce artillery duel the armored train was compelled to back out.

Meanwhile German reinforcements were rushing from all directions, as the German command was resolved to retain this vital life line of the Vitebsk group. Even the men of construction battalions, detachments of security and police troops were sent into action in the attempt to build an all-round defense of the railway.

But in the morning the cavalry, having effected an outflanking maneuver and acting in cooperation with other troops, launched a resolute and successful attack on the railroad. The trunk line, to which the Germans attached great importance, was cut.

MOSCOW SPEAKING!

Moscow's leading radio announcer is Yuri Levitan. Since 1934 the country's most important broadcasts have been entrusted to him; during these ten years he has been the first to read the general speeches of Stalin and Molotov to the public.

Levitan's father, a tailor in Vladimir, wanted his son to become an engineer. But as a schoolboy Yuri had visited Moscow several times and seen the work of the Moscow Art Theater. He made up his mind to become an actor and at the age of 16 went to the Capital to study.

Soon afterward he entered a contest for radio announcers, and despite his youth won first place over 700 entries. He was taken on the staff of the Moscow Radio Center, but for two years continued his general education at the Institute of Communications.

Of his subsequent career Levitan says:

"I was tremendously interested in radio work: the thought that each day I spoke to one-sixth of the earth's surface was very exciting. I felt that a radio announcer must be even more exacting in his demands upon himself than an actor; for further study I entered the Vakhtangov Theater Studio and completed Stanislavsky's course in three years. I have also worked at the film studios as reader of the texts of many documentary films, including *The Mannerheim Line*, *The Battle for Stalingrad*, *One Day of War* and *Black Sea Sailors*.

"In these days it is a joy indeed to be able to announce the great victories of the Red Army to my compatriots. Whenever I read the texts of the Orders of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, I imagine the ranks of fighters to whom are addressed the stirring words: 'I thank all the detachments and units who distinguished themselves in battle' . . . and as soon as I have concluded with 'today Moscow will salute our valiant troops . . .' and finished the Order, I race up the fire-escape to the roof to enjoy the grand sight of the salute of 224 guns. All Moscow is ringed with cannon-fire and colored rockets, and the streets are filled with exultant people.

"But at the same time, whenever I rejoice with my listeners at the liberation of another Soviet city, I always remember with the most astonishing clarity the anguish that gripped me when I had to announce the painful tidings that this city had fallen to the enemy. I imagined then the millions of Soviet people crowded about loud-speakers, their eyes burning with bitter grief and hatred for the invaders. How superhumanly hard it was to tell them: 'Our troops have withdrawn from Smolensk.'

"It was supreme happiness to be able to inform our

country that the Germans had been driven from Smolensk . . . that the city was again free. And thus it is with nearly all the cities now being liberated: I was first to announce their fall and am first to announce their liberation.

"I receive many letters daily from listeners throughout the country. Often these correspondents ask me to help locate missing relatives. Recently Vera Shishova, for example, learned that I had mentioned the name of Lieutenant Nikolai Shishov as one who had distinguished himself in battle. She wrote: 'I have had no news from my husband for 18 months. If it is possible, I implore you to send me his address.'

"Great human sorrow can be read in every line of these letters from wives and mothers. I always think of them when I read the final words of Stalin's Orders of the Day: 'Eternal glory to the heroes who have fallen in the struggle for the freedom and independence of our motherland. Death to the German invaders!'

"I shall never forget June 22, 1941—when I announced that Vyacheslav Molotov was at the microphone to inform our people of the monstrous act of the German fascists, the invasion of our country . . . nor July 3, 1941, when I had the honor to announce that the Chairman of the State Committee of Defense, Joseph Stalin, was about to speak. I shall always remember the face of our great leader as he uttered the demand for the annihilation of the enemy.

"Now I am awaiting the day—which I am sure is not far off—when I shall announce to our long-suffering people the great tidings that the war is over . . . that the crushing blows of the Red Army from the east and of our Allies from the west have destroyed the Nazi power, and that once more there will be peace and a happy life on earth."

14-Year-Old Stakhanovite

Fourteen-year-old Vyacheslav Moisseyev, youngest Stakhanovite in the USSR, heads a team of vocational school students which ranks as one of the best in Soviet military factories. Replying to a New Year questionnaire, Vyacheslav wrote: "We finished 1943 like Stakhanovites and gave the front thousands of shells above plan. The boys in my team have initiative. They rearranged their working plans and made some alterations in the lathes; as a result, productivity immediately increased, and now every member of our team does the work of four."

BILLIONS OF BOOKS

Over nine billion books have been published in the USSR under the Soviet Government. In the country where before the October Revolution near four-fifths of the population was illiterate, books are being published in 100 languages, including 40 which until recently had no alphabet—the Chukcha, Nanai, Koryaks, Evenki and others.

Newspapers and magazines are published in millions of copies. There is no district, region or republic of the USSR which does not have its own paper, published in the language of its population. Newspapers in the various national languages are also published at the front.

In the last prewar year, 1940, eight times as many books were published in the USSR as in Russia on the eve of the First World War. Even in the war year of 1942, a total of 520,000,000 books was published.

Since the advent of Soviet power, editions of the classics of literature and science have been widely printed. Thirty million copies of the works of Pushkin have been published in 30 languages; forty million

copies of Gorky's works in 65 languages; Tolstoy's works in 57 languages and Shakespeare in 17 languages.

Othello was recently published for the first time in the Tajik and Buryat languages; Cervantes' *Don Quixote* in Turkmenian, and Darwin's *Variation of Animals and Plants Under Domestication* in the Lezgin tongue.

The book most widely printed in the USSR during the war is Joseph Stalin's *On the Great Patriotic War*, the total distribution of which has reached over fifty million copies.

Millions of copies of military books and fiction were printed in 1942. Journalistic articles and essays by Ilya Ehrenburg and Alexei Tolstoy, Soviet plays about the war—*The Russians* by Konstantin Simonov; *Invasion* by Leonid Leonov, and *The Front* by Alexander Korneichuk—and books by Mikhail Sholokhov, Alexander Dovzhenko and Vasili Grossman, have been published in editions of one million copies each.

DOLLS AT WAR

By Sergei Obraztsov, Honored Artist of the Russian SFSR

I am director of the State Central Puppet Theater in Mayakovsky Square, one of Moscow's great central squares. Before the war our theater gave two performances a day, one in the afternoon for children, and another in the evening for adults. Just after the outbreak of war the building was damaged by a blast, but our work continued. One of the first things we did was to arrange concerts of puppet ensembles, requiring only light decorations and the minimum number of dolls, for touring the front line trenches.

Our puppets perform in fields, forests, dugouts and trenches, sometimes not more than 500 yards from the enemy lines. They have covered thousands of miles in trucks, often under enemy fire. Traveling with the Red Army, they have shared not only the sorrowful days of retreat, but the happy period of victories and advance. They give performances in villages and towns within a day, and sometimes within several hours, of their liberation.

Those of our puppeteers who are not busy at the front tour the Soviet rear. The Government turned over to us a small steamer and two railway coaches. Our steamer has touched every point along five

rivers—the Moscow, Oka, Volga, Kama and Belaya. Our puppets have performed at quaysides, in villages and rivermen's clubs. They toured Siberia, the Kuznetsk coal basin and Central Asia by rail. They performed for children and adults in railway stations, in factory shops, in engine depots, mines, recruiting stations and Red Army training camps.

We never forget to give special performances for army hospitals, with shows in individual wards for severely wounded men, even when there are no more than two or three of them in a room.

I realize, of course, that what we have been doing merits less discussion than the deeds of those who are defending our country and destroying the enemy with their own hands. Yet our show has played a necessary and useful part; we give our audiences relaxation, and in war time this is an important thing.

Children, miners, wounded, and men fighting at the front—our puppets make them all laugh. And this is very gratifying, since Soviet laughter means German tears. And that is why I regard my theater as a fighting weapon.

Notes from Front and Rear

A new way of dealing with Nazi tanks was recently demonstrated by a dare-devil Siberian, Senior Lieutenant Kurbta. A heavy German tank was heading for a trench occupied by Lieutenant Kurbta and his men, who waited with grenades in hand. Suddenly Kurbta sprang out of the trench and flung himself to the ground. The Germans drove the tank straight at him. With split-second timing the Siberian jumped up, made three strides, leaped into the air and describing an arc landed on the enemy tank. He thrust his pistol into the observation slot and fired eight shots. The tank stopped dead, and as the German officer cautiously pushed open the hatch, Kurbta tossed in a grenade. There was an explosion. After the smoke cleared the men in the trenches saw the smashed monster, with their commander lying beside it. When they ran to recover his body, they found him still alive—the incredible Siberian had suffered only a torn shoulder and a fractured leg.

★

Krylova, manager of the canteen at the Sokolny coal mine in Kazakhstan, has an underground kitchen from which hot meals are taken to the men at the coal face. Other Soviet mines are following this example.

★

Militarized athletic competitions were recently held in many schools in Soviet cities. Track events, grenade-throwing, rope climbing, crawling and long-distance marching were featured. The competitions were staged in two rounds, for the championships of schools and of cities. The children of Serpukhov, in the Moscow Region, and of Kazan, in the Tatar Republic, took first places.

★

The Kuznetsk iron and steel works completed its annual program on December 28, 1943, with production above plan in all departments. Output for 1943 exceeded that of 1942 by 90,000 ton of pig iron, 70,000 tons of steel and 74,000 tons of coke.

★

Miners in the Moscow Coal Basin are providing more labor for the coal face by reorganizing their work. More logical planning of the various operations makes it possible to release personnel without lowering output. One group of young miners have released fifteen of their number, who have formed two new brigades in another section of the same mine, thus producing a substantial increase in output.

The first All-Russian Conference of workers in the food industries opened in Moscow on November 30. The People's Commissar of the Food Industry of the Russian SFSR reported that the food industry had on the whole fulfilled its annual program ahead of time. Over 6,500 factories are processing vegetables, fruit and other local raw materials. This year, tens of millions of rubles' worth of various products will be turned out in excess of plan, including meat and fish products, confectionery and soap. The district food combines are finding their own raw material bases. The aim of the food industry of the Russian SFSR is to double its output in 1944.

★

Corporal Heinrich Mueller, 5th Company, 587th Regiment, 320th Infantry Division, taken prisoner by the Red Army, made the following statement on the subject of planned retreat: *We had to abandon all our weapons, equipment and ammunition and run 60 kilometers in one night. Could you find anyone to call this a planned retreat? On our way we saw towns and villages being evacuated by the German troops, who were setting them on fire. This is an act of despair—it is evident there will be no more German offensives. The high command has given up hope of ever returning to these places.*

★

In connection with the growing interest of youth in international problems and the history of Allied countries, the Soviet Government has opened a Department of International Relations at Moscow University.

★

Four and one-half million books for the restoration in liberated districts of libraries wrecked and destroyed by the German barbarians have already been contributed to the All-Union State Fund; 1,200,000 of these were collected by the people and institutions of Moscow. The All-Union Lenin Library contributed 200,000 books, and the Academia Publishing House has allotted 100,000 rubles for literature for these libraries, in accordance with a special decision of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Two hundred complete libraries have already been sent to the liberated towns and districts.

★

Fishermen of the Novosibirsk Region are reporting splendid catches under the ice. In one area 160 tons of fish have been caught by this method in the past few weeks.

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LENINGRAD IN JANUARY

By Nikolai Tikhonov

For two and one-half years Leningrad has been shelled by long-range guns. You hear muffled blows in the distance, followed by the screeching of shells as they fly over buildings. Then dull explosions strike your ears. The city is being bombarded with wearisome, methodical cruelty. The German and Finnish bandits treat everything as military objectives. The historic memorials of antiquity, the schools, nurseries, theaters, cathedrals and embankments—all these have felt the fury of the fascist barbarians. The bombardment is calculated to destroy the city and frighten its population.

Once I watched for hours as shells burst every three minutes in a district where I happened to find myself. This went on for seven hours. They fire in various ways—every hour or so they send over four shells per minute, which cut into walls and streets. They fire now at dawn, now in the daytime, now in the evening. Sometimes they fire at night. They shell one point in the city from various angles.

In such hours life goes on as usual, save only that the militia halts traffic in the bombarded districts. But it is impossible to stop it altogether—there are



Scouts of the Black Sea Fleet on reconnaissance

always pedestrians intent on some urgent job who take no notice of the shells.

Oh, those streets of Leningrad, flowing with blood! Yet half an hour after the last shell falls, the blood has already disappeared from the pavements, the dead and wounded have been removed and the interrupted streetcar traffic resumed. But we remember everything that has happened and we shall never forget the terrible scenes of the killing of peaceful inhabitants—the blown-off heads and hands, the corpses of children, the scattered, blood-stained possessions of the victims.

As we know from reports of the Soviet Information Bureau, the chief inspirers of these bombardments are the Finnish officers. With the callous self-satisfaction of cold-blooded assassins they aim their guns; they want to turn the life of every Leningrad citizen into a bloody lottery; to make everyone who goes to work, or shopping or to the theater feel that he may never return home again; to put the fear of death into him at every step and at every moment. You sit in your home and a shell may strike the house; you walk along the street and death may overtake you; you ride in a streetcar and it may become a death-trap.

Shell Fragments and Snowballs

But the Germans and Finns have failed to upset the proud spirit of the people of Leningrad. They will find no fear of death in the eyes of the people on the banks of the Neva. During one recent large bombardment a toddler lay on the boulevard between the empty flower-beds. He had beside him many hard snowballs and behind him lay another youngster with a tiny sled filled with lumps of frozen snow. The bombardment was gaining in intensity. People on the boulevard accelerated their steps. Fragments were flying over the heads of the youngsters, breaking off twigs and falling in the flower-beds. Seized with the excitement of his game, one of the youngsters shouted: "Come on! Come on! I'm attacking!"

These little Leningrad boys were as fearless as veteran soldiers.

A shell came crashing down near a carter bringing in a load of wood. Fragments wounded him in the shoulder. Pressing his wound with his hand, he ran to a drug-store across the road, but the frightened horse rushed with the cart up to the gate of a nearby yard and the cart was stuck. The horse stood with closed eyes, leaning against the wall, trembling through all its body. A woman in the yard got a pail of water and a rag. She wet the cloth and put it on the horse's head. The animal opened its fear-stricken eyes. With tender words the woman calmly gave it a drink. Shells were bursting all about, but this small

Leningrad woman with the big heart consoled a frightened animal.

No, the spirit of Leningraders will not be broken by any bombardments.

Gargantuan Appetites of Finns

And as for the Finns, we shall have something to say to them and some accounts to settle with them. Those wicked stepsons of nature called the Schutz Korps and the Lapuas hate Leningrad. They have been hating it for a long time—ever since Mannerheim dreamed of riding along Nevsky prospect on a white horse. When this didn't come off, he "modestly" declared: "Unfortunately, Petrograd is not yet ripe for it." That was in 1919. Since then the appetites of the Schutz Korps have become truly gargantuan. They have printed maps on which the frontiers of "Great Finland" passed through the Urals, and Leningrad became a Finnish provincial city. They called it "Pyetari"—being terrified of its Russian name—and marking it thus on their aggressive maps were overcome with a pitiful feeling of delight at belittling the grandeur of the city by the little Finnish name of "Pyetari"!

In the months of decisive struggle for Leningrad in the autumn and winter of 1941, they raved like madmen over their radio. They thought "Leningrad had already become ripe." They printed tickets for a banquet in the Hotel Astoria, and the chests of the Finnish white bandits were decorated with iron crosses with the blessing of Hitler himself. In cannibal fashion they rejoiced at the sufferings of the Leningrad people at the hungry time of the blockade.

When the Finns realized that Leningrad stood impregnable, and their fascist friends were worn out and tamed before the city, they turned to the occupied area of the Leningrad Region and fell upon the peaceful Russian population. In their baseness, ferocity and terrorism they outstripped even the most ferocious members of the Gestapo and SS troops. On one occasion our reconnaissance troops observed several Red Army men with rifles in hand standing in a glade in front of the Finnish fortifications. Cautiously approaching this silent group our scouts discovered that they were dead and their bodies mined. After the mines had been removed and the dead carried to our positions, medical examination revealed that the Finns had inflicted deep knife wounds on the Red Army men, left them to freeze to death and then put them up in front of the trenches.

The Finns began to bombard Leningrad with the aim of annihilating the city and its inhabitants. In one of their journals these frantic Finns wrote in so many words that Leningrad must be wiped from the face of the earth.



LENINGRAD BEFORE THE WAR—A view along the River Neva embankment. Many of the buildings shown have been seriously damaged by fascist shelling of the city

But Leningrad wants to live and it will live. It will live a long life! While doing everything to hasten victory at the front, it also works on the restoration of what has been wrecked. A large stadium which had been partly finished before the war will be completed; evacuated theaters will return to the city and will find their homes already repaired.

This winter there will be skating and hockey in Leningrad. While prior to the war there had been no time for a complete reorganization of the central park, steps can now be taken in this direction. Many of the houses in this area have been demolished. The site must be cleared of ruins, shell-holes and trenches filled in, the remaining blockhouses removed and the park put in order. And much other work has already begun.

A year ago the merry word "ball" sounded pretentious and out of place, but you may now go to a club on Saturday night and find a ball in full swing. The more sedate part of the public walks about or sits chatting, watching the military, factory and office youth dancing. There are no low spirits or gloomy

faces! Perhaps some of these girls have helped to remove from the streets the shell-torn bodies of Leningrad citizens. They have engaged in many activities formerly not considered women's work—have dug peat and built fortifications. But their hearts have become neither dulled nor morbid . . . they can be sincerely gay and joyous. Their moral health has not been undermined. In vain did the enemy attempt to drive them into a dark and blind alley . . . to deprive them of their youth. They remain feminine and sweet-tempered. They remain young and healthy.

Perhaps tomorrow, while they are riding in a street-car, a shell will cut down one or more of them—but not one is thinking of such a tomorrow, and it would seem to them strange to think of it. They are not hysterical. They have strong wills and strong hands . . . and they all believe in a happy future.

The people of Leningrad are dressed in plain dark garb. But under their modest clothes are the hearts of heroes. The city has been saved by their hands; they are already rebuilding it, restoring what was wrecked. And they are wonderful masters of labor.

Restoration of Museums

The Commissariat of Education of the Russian SR has called museum directors to Moscow to discuss the restoration of museums in liberated districts. Before the war the Commissariat had 121 museums in territory later over-run by the Germans. Now all these—with the exception of the Crimea, Novgorod Pskov museums—are in liberated areas.

Vanished treasures have been listed and the dam-

age estimated. Museums that have not suffered are helping to restock the empty galleries. The Central Museum of the Revolution has already presented over 1,500 exhibits—pictures, sculptures, historic documents—to devastated districts.

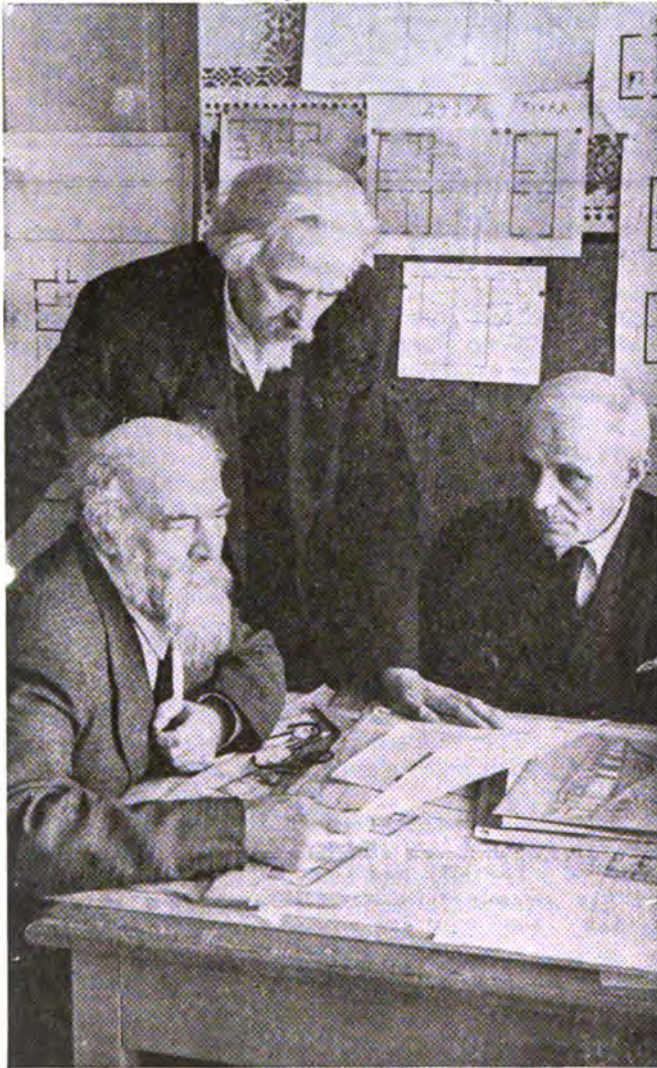
Of 20,670 exhibits in the Kalinin Regional Museum, the Germans stole 18,000. In Armavir they put mines under the building and blew it up with all the exhibits.

Soviet Architects Build Now—and for the Future

By Karo Alabyan

Vice President of the Academy of Architecture of the USSR

In June, 1941, the peaceful labors of Soviet architects and construction engineers were cut short by the sudden and perfidious attack of Hitlerite Germany on the USSR.



President of the Academy of Architecture of the USSR Vesnin (center), Director of the Institute of Construction Semyonov (right), and a colleague, examine Academician Vesnin's design for a standard dwelling and plan for a standard village for liberated districts

On the eve of the war our architects were engaged in the replanning of old cities, the building of entire new blocks and thoroughfares and suburban commu-

nities, the construction of huge industrial and transport undertakings and the creation of new cities in different parts of the country. Among the greatest achievements in these fields in the five years immediately preceding the war may be mentioned such vast enterprises as the Moscow-Volga Canal, the Moscow subway, and the industrial enterprises in the Donbas, the Urals and Siberia.

The war demanded the mobilization of all creative and technical forces for the front and in war production. A large number of Soviet architects entered the ranks of the Red Army, where they served with engineering, sapper and camouflage units and in the construction of defense works. Many of these comrades have died the death of heroes.

But the wartime activity of Soviet architects is not limited to immediate service in the Red Army. The war necessitated the transfer of numerous industrial enterprises from the western districts of the country to the far east. Tremendous construction has been launched in the Urals, Siberia and Central Asia. Factories and electric power stations evacuated from the Ukraine and the western regions of Russia and from the Donetsk coal basin, were set up on new sites and in record time resumed operation. History will recognize this gigantic shifting of industry to the east, accomplished under the most difficult conditions of war, as one of the greatest achievements of the Soviet people in its titanic struggle against the German invaders.

Time Most Vital Consideration

Architects were called upon to play a responsible role in this relocation of industry. It was necessary to build new industrial centers, often in sparsely-populated places, to provide schools, baths, hospitals and stores. And this large-scale construction had to be carried out in the shortest possible time. The Germans were advancing and the Red Army insistently demanded a continuous flow of guns, machines and ammunition. The fate of the front depended on the work of these builders.

Besides the requirement of maximum speed, wartime building involved another no less important consideration: The country's transport system, occupied in carrying war materiel, could not be burdened with heavy and cumbersome building materials such as brick, timber, cement and stone. Only those materials available in the immediate vicinity should be used in any construction project. "Construct only with



Krasnoarmeiskaya street in Orel—after the German retreat

local materials”—this was the first and fundamental principle of building economics advanced by Soviet architects at this time. They had to find building materials on the spot and at the same time to work out the most suitable types of structures for employing local resources.

Gypsum was used on a large scale in a number of districts, since deposits of this material are to be found in unlimited quantities in many localities. Through a special process gypsum was rendered extremely durable, and wall blocks, staircases and other parts of buildings were made from it. In the industrial cities of the Urals the builders used materials made from blast-furnace slag and other industrial waste products, and in a number of districts of Siberia and other regions where there is an insufficient supply of wood, blocks were made from calcified earth. But in regions rich in timber the construction was based on standardized wood structures, and plants were erected for the manufacture of prefabricated wooden houses to be assembled on the construction site.

Restoration of Cities Destroyed by Germans

Soviet architecture was confronted with extremely difficult problems in the restoration of cities destroyed by the German invaders. When in December, 1941 the Germans were routed by the Red Army in the historic battles near Moscow, the retreating vandals

systematically and completely destroyed the finest buildings of the cities they had occupied, reduced entire blocks of dwellings to ruins and burned down whole villages and settlements. This barbarous destruction by the German-fascist army widened in scope and became infinitely more savage at a later period, during the victorious Soviet offensive of 1943.

The year 1943 began, as everyone knows, with one of the greatest battles in the history of wars—the Battle for Stalingrad. The defense of this great industrial center on the Volga ended in the complete rout and capture of two German armies. But although they suffered a crushing defeat at Stalingrad, the Germans succeeded in destroying this huge city with its many new factory buildings and extensive residential blocks. The streets of Stalingrad were the immediate arena of prolonged battles.

Large Cities Utterly Destroyed

In the subsequent period of the Red Army summer offensive, however, even cities which were not in themselves military objectives and were not the sites of battles, were also subjected to destruction. In accordance with a definite and methodical plan, the Germans began to carry out a truly fiendish intention—to utterly destroy those cities they were forced to abandon and the villages which lay in their path of retreat.

In order to gain even a remote conception of the

quantitative amount of devastation caused by the enemy, it will be enough to explain that each of the ravaged Soviet Ukrainian and Byelorussian Regions is equal in territory to a large American state.

Whoever has not seen with his own eyes such Russian and Ukrainian cities as Voronezh, Chernigov, Smolensk, Poltava, Mtsensk, Karachev or Vyazma, cannot conceive of the proportions and nature of the damages perpetrated by the German barbarians. Before retreating from these cities, special detachments of incendiaries fired all the wooden houses, and sapper units laid mines beneath all public and administrative buildings. Gendarme and patrol detachments made short work of civilians who tried to extinguish the fires.

This destructive work was carried out so consistently and methodically that in many cities not only was there no single building left intact, but not even one brick was left upon another.

The picturesque old Ukrainian cities of Chernigov and Poltava are mere heaps of ruins; the huge industrial and cultural center of Kharkov has lost all its finest buildings, and the Russian towns of Karachev and Zhizdra were razed to the ground.

Germans Deliberately Destroyed

In most of the cities and villages occupied by the Hitlerites they not only destroyed dwellings, public buildings and industrial enterprises, but also priceless historical monuments of architecture. They deliberately demolished Russian cultural treasures; they blew up or burned down ancient cathedrals, among them such masterpieces of Russian architecture as the New Jerusalem Monastery at Istra, near Moscow; several churches in Vyazma; ten churches and buildings of the old Ioanno-Predtechy Monastery, and three of the four churches in the small city of Gzhatsk. The same picture is revealed in every city which fell into German hands.

The above can give only a faint idea of the difficulties involved in the work of rehabilitation, and of its scope. Besides rebuilding dwellings and other structures, it is also necessary to restore all municipal services, beginning with the water supply system and electric power.

The problems of the builders are made even more complex by the circumstance that the returning populations are without shelter. The builders are thus faced with two problems simultaneously: to provide living quarters and to begin immediately the general reconstruction of the city. The first requires the organization of high-speed methods of building, based on the use of local materials and the simplest designs. This urgent work, however, should not interfere with the further planning of the city and its fundamental reconstruction, which must be carried out according to a general plan.

Plans for Stalingrad Restoration

The best illustration of this is the restoration of Stalingrad. The Academy of Architecture has worked out a new general plan for the rebuilding of the city; meanwhile work is going ahead full speed on the restoration of factory buildings and dwelling houses, wherever foundations and a few exterior walls remain intact.

The restoration of this huge city has put an intense strain on the workers, most of whom are young girls who have learned hard masculine professions. The city does not have enough stone-masons, carpenters and general laborers, to say nothing of engineers and technicians. Enormous difficulties are encountered in obtaining building materials, particularly lumber, which must be shipped from a considerable distance.

Conditions in general are very hard; the people are living in dugouts, canvas tents and temporary barracks. There is a scarcity of food. At this moment, when the war is at the very peak of its intensity, when all efforts are directed toward helping the front, the development of the building industry presents incredibly difficult problems. These include the setting up of a wide network of large and small enterprises producing building materials and ready-made parts and sections, and the launching of plants to produce pre-fabricated sections and whole houses. The huge scope of construction demands the strict standardization of all sections and parts produced, as well as the standardization of architectural designs for the basic types of buildings.

Architectural Planning Coordinated

A number of Soviet economic and scientific organizations are working on these problems. The Academy of Architecture of the USSR is drawing up new standard designs and working out new building norms. The Government Committee on Standardization is charged with the approval of the standards adopted for production. The People's Commissariat of Municipal Economy has the task of rehabilitating the municipal economy: transport, water supply, electric power, sewerage system, et cetera.

To coordinate the work of architectural planning, a special Committee on Architecture, exercising the rights of a special People's Commissariat, was recently established by a decision of the Soviet Government. This new Government organ is charged with coordination of the work of the various organizations dealing with city planning and architectural design, approval of the general city plans, the providing of architects for rehabilitation work, exercising architectural supervision and control, confirmation of standard designs for residential and public

(Continued on page eight)

FRANCO'S MANEUVERS

By K. Velikanov

Franco Spain, although she joined the tri-partite pact of the Axis powers, formally adopted a position of "non-belligerent" in this war. But actually she is an ally of Hitler Germany and as such renders Germany diverse and very substantial assistance.

To demonstrate his solidarity with Germany, Franco at Hitler's request sent Spanish troops to the Soviet-German front. The fascist "Blue Division" has been fighting on the side of the German army from the early days of Hitler's dastardly attack upon the Soviet Union. If one counts the reinforcements which have been sent from time to time from Spain to the USSR, it will be found that Franco dispatched to the Soviet-German front not one but several divisions. The Spanish press asserts that Franco's government has completely withdrawn the Blue Division from the USSR, but the fact is that the troops of this division are still at the front.

We learn from a communique of the Soviet Information Bureau that Soviet forces have taken prisoner several soldiers belonging to replenishment battalions dispatched to the Soviet-German front in September and October, 1943. These battalions were secretly formed into the Spanish Legion, which is now stationed on one of the sectors of the Volkhov front. It should be added that on the Soviet-German front there is the "Blue Air Squadron," which also systematically receives replenishments.

In view of the acute shortage in its own reserves, the German command has retained the Spanish units, just as it retains the troops of Hungary, Slovakia and other vassals.

The wide advertisement given to the fictitious withdrawal of the Blue Division from the Soviet-German front is intended to deceive the Spanish public. The fact is that even among reactionary circles which support the Franco regime there has been a growing fear lately that to persist in a policy of unconcealed assistance to Germany might handicap fascist Spain's foreign policy maneuvers necessitated by the change in the international situation. With few exceptions the Spanish reactionaries during this war, as in the First World War, relied upon Germany, whom they regarded as their powerful bulwark. Spanish "neutrality" is only the guise under which German imperialism is using that country for its own purposes.

But it is now becoming clear to the Spanish reactionaries that the prospects of receiving effective backing from Germany in the future are fading. The severe defeats suffered by the German army on the Soviet front have undermined the military power of the Third Reich. Now at the beginning of 1944 these

defeats have made the situation favorable for the complete defeat of Germany's armed forces by the Red Army and the Allied Forces in the near future.

The collapse of fascist Italy caused deep dismay in the Franco camp, and the Spanish reactionaries began to seek ways and means of saving fascism in Spain. The decisions of the Moscow and Teheran Conferences, which further strengthened the fighting unity of the three great democratic powers, were a blow to the plans of Hitler's underlings in Spain. The Spanish press, it is true, in commenting on these decisions took its cue from Berlin; but the Spanish reactionaries drew their own conclusions from these decisions, as their subsequent maneuvers testify.

In particular, as far as home policy is concerned, the efforts of Spanish ruling circles are concentrated on preventing the spread of the anti-fascist national democratic movement. Franco is afraid that victory for the anti-Hitler coalition would strengthen the position of the opponents of the present regime in Spain. He is therefore taking timely measures to create new support for the fight of reaction against the democratic elements.

Franco is seeking backing in the army. He has decided to merge the fascist militia with it. This is at the same time a move to prevent the monarchists from using the army for their own ends. In order to create an atmosphere conducive to strengthening the army and to the promotion of other measures designed to repaint the facade of fascist dictatorship, Franco proclaimed partial amnesty for political prisoners. He expected that the amnesty would be interpreted abroad as a sign of the consolidation of the present regime. But as a matter of fact the amnesty was an enforced measure.

There is already in Spain an anti-fascist national democratic front, which has the support of the broad masses in town and country. Its purpose is to emancipate Spain from fascism, to make a complete rupture with Hitler Germany and to democratize the social system. It is against this front that Franco is mobilizing his forces, backed by influential reactionary groups in Spain. The jails are not emptying, even after the proclamation of "amnesty." They are being filled with supporters of the anti-fascist national democratic front. Franco's gendarmes arrest people even for distributing the Press Bulletin of the British Embassy in Madrid. Reports from the Allied press on the military situation are banned in fascist Spain. On the other hand, the Spanish press is the mouthpiece for all Goebbels' propaganda campaigns. Hitler's agents in Spain carry on their activities under the direct protection of the authorities.

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SOVIET ARCHITECTS

(Continued from page six)

buildings, and the protection and restoration of historic architectural monuments.

The Government decree on the establishment of this new committee particularly emphasizes its primary task—to insure superior architectural work in all new construction and in the restoration of demolished cities.

The Union of Soviet Architects, with 4,000 highly-qualified members—all of whom are ready and eager to devote their energies to the rehabilitation of cities and communities devastated by the enemy—is rendering great assistance to the Committee on Architecture and to other Government bodies engaged in the work of restoration. On its own initiative, and by commission from the Government, the Union is now working on a whole series of special problems dealing with architecture and construction.

Contests for designs and projects have been organized by the Architects' Union. Public showings of the work of its members are held, at which the work is subjected to friendly criticism, and special courses for advanced study in certain branches have been arranged. The Union also assists in the proper distribution of architectural cadres, and has been active in sending groups of architects to newly-liberated cities. These groups enter a city immediately after the Red Army, help the population to carry out urgent rehabilitation measures, and then proceed to the further planning and rebuilding of the city.

Problems Without Precedent in History

The Union of Soviet Architects is confronted with problems which probably have no precedent in world history. We are faced with the task of rebuilding cities and communities from the ashes to which they have been reduced by the modern barbarians. Millions of people must be provided with dwellings, and the deep wounds inflicted upon all contemporary culture must be healed.

The future of world civilization, the fate of all human creative achievement, the destiny of our art and of all that we revere and value, are now being decided in the great battles the Soviet people are waging against the barbarous Hitlerites. The preservation of millions of lives and of a multitude of material and spiritual values depends upon how soon the United Nations accomplish the final extermination of the enemy.

Alexei Stakhanov in Donbas

"This year the pace of restoration work in the Donbas will be doubled as compared with last year," stated Alexei Stakhanov, who recently arrived in the Donets Basin. "Last year, thanks to Government help, considerable successes were achieved within a short period. I saw numerous plants and mines launched and communication lines and railway connections restored. In December, 1943 in the Voroshilovgrad Region a number of mines were put into operation, and in the Stalino Region many mines are producing. Donets coal already powers battleships on the Baltic and Black Seas; Donets metal armors the Red Army and Navy.

"The foremost Soviet scientists are working on the problem of the earliest possible restoration of Donbas industry. All mines and plants restored are equipped with the most modern machinery, which will make the Donets Basin an advanced industrial center of the USSR.

"Miners and metallurgists of the Urals, the Kuznetsk Basin, Karaganda and Kirghizia are aiding the work. Dozens of trains loaded with equipment, instruments and food are arriving. The country is sparing nothing to restore the Donbas in all its strength."

FRANCO'S MANEUVERS

(Continued from page seven)

The maneuvers undertaken with the idea of creating conditions for the saving of the fascist regime form an integral part of the support which Franco is rendering Hitler Germany. In addition to the fact that Franco is still keeping troops on the Soviet-German front, Spain is supplying the German deficit in strategical raw materials, and is facilitating the smuggling of similar materials on Spanish ships into Germany from South American countries. British naval vessels in the Atlantic are constantly holding up Spanish ships in the Atlantic carrying contraband for Germany.

After the collapse of fascism in Italy and the defeats in North Africa and the Mediterranean, Spain's significance as a source of supply for Germany has increased. The Hitlerites are doing their utmost to keep Spain under their influence and control. Franco's maneuvers are prompted by the change for the worse in Germany's position and the necessity, owing to changed conditions, of concealing the assistance he is rendering the Germans.

The chief force which has supported Franco so far was Hitler Germany. He is continuing to serve her.

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Washington, D. C., January 13, 1944

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Declaration of Soviet Government on Soviet-Polish Relations

TASS Communique, January 11.—TASS is authorized by the Soviet Government to declare the following:

On January 5 in London was published a declaration of the emigre Polish government on Soviet-Polish relations which contains a number of incorrect assertions, including an incorrect assertion about the Soviet-Polish frontier.

As is well-known, the Soviet Constitution established the Soviet-Polish frontier in conformity with the will of the population of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, as expressed through a plebiscite conducted on a broad democratic basis in 1939. Then the territories of the Western Ukraine in which Ukrainians form the overwhelming majority of the population were incorporated with the Soviet Ukraine, and the territories of Western Byelorussia in which Byelorussians form an overwhelming majority of the population were incorporated with Soviet Byelorussia. The injustice committed by the Riga Treaty of 1921, which was imposed upon the Soviet Union, in regard of the Ukrainians inhabiting the Western Ukraine and the Byelorussians inhabiting Western Byelorussia, was thus rectified.

The incorporation of Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia with the Soviet Union not only did not violate the interests of Poland, but on the contrary created a reliable foundation for stable and permanent friendship between the Polish people and its neighbors—the Ukrainian and Byelorussian and Russian peoples.

The Soviet Government has repeatedly stated that it stands for the reestablishment of a strong and independent Poland and for friendship between the Soviet Union and Poland. The Soviet Government declares again that it seeks to establish friendship between the USSR and Poland on the basis of stable, good-neighborly relations and mutual respect and, if the Polish people will so desire—on the basis of an alliance for mutual assistance against the Germans as the chief enemies of the Soviet Union and Poland.

Poland's joining of the Soviet-Czechoslovak treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration could contribute to the accomplishment of this task.

The successes scored by Soviet troops on the Soviet-German front daily accelerate the liberation of the occupied territories of the Soviet Union from the German invaders. The self-sacrificing struggle of the Red Army and the developing war operations of our Allies bring nearer the utter defeat of the Hitlerite war machine and are bringing to Poland and other nations liberation from the yoke of the German occupationists.

The Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR and the Polish Army Corps formed by it, which acts on the front against the Germans hand-in-hand with the Red Army, are already fulfilling their glorious tasks in this struggle for liberation.

At present the possibility is opening for the rebirth of Poland as a strong and independent state. However, Poland must be reborn not through the seizure of Ukrainian and Byelorussian lands, but through the restoration to Poland of lands which belonged to Poland from time immemorial and were wrested by the Germans from her. Only in this way trust and friendship could be established between the Polish, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Russian peoples.

The eastern frontiers of Poland can be established by agreement with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government does not regard the frontiers of 1939 as unalterable. These frontiers can be modified in Poland's favor so that the areas in which the Polish population forms a majority be turned over to Poland. In this case the Soviet-Polish frontier could pass approximately along the so-called Curzon line, which was adopted in 1919 by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers, and which provides for inclusion of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia into the Soviet Union.

The western frontiers of Poland must be extended

through incorporation with Poland of ancient Polish lands previously wrested by Germany, without which it is impossible to unite the whole Polish people in its state, which thereby will receive a needed outlet to the Baltic Sea.

The just aspiration of the Polish people for its full reunion in a strong and independent state must receive recognition and support.

The emigre Polish government, isolated from its people, proved incapable of establishment of friendly

relations with the Soviet Union. It also proved incapable of organizing active struggle against the German invaders within Poland herself. Furthermore, by its incorrect policy it not infrequently plays into the hands of the German occupationists.

However, the interests of Poland and the Soviet Union consist in that stable, friendly relations be established between our countries and that the people of Poland and the Soviet Union unite in struggle against the common external enemy, as demanded by the common cause of all the Allies.

BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES

By Lieutenant General Ponamarenko

In his radio broadcast of July 3, 1941, Marshal Stalin laid down a program of action for the Soviet people for the defense of their country and the defeat of the German-fascist army threatening the Soviet lands and the freedom of the Soviet peoples. He pointed out that this is a just war of liberation of the Soviet people against bandit Germany, who attacked the Soviet Union; that it is a war of "life and death for the peoples of the USSR: the issue is whether the peoples of the Soviet Union shall be free or fall into slavery."

Stalin called upon the Soviet people to selflessly, actively defend their country, its honor, liberty and independence; to take up arms and fight for every inch of land firmly and courageously to the last drop of blood, devoting their entire life's activity to the cause of defeating the enemy.

In the regions temporarily occupied by the enemy, Stalin said, they must develop a popular guerilla movement and establish unbearable conditions for the enemy and his associates.

The whole Soviet people rose in response to this appeal. Since the outbreak of war, Soviet patriots in regions temporarily occupied by the Germans have organized into struggle against the German invaders; the guerrilla movement has grown and become a menacing force.

The guerrillas of Byelorussia, the Ukraine, Smolensk, Orel, the Leningrad and Kalinin Regions, Moldavia, Karelia, the Crimea, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have wiped out hundred of thousands of German officers and men, have blown up thousands of bridges, derailed thousands of enemy troop trains, destroyed tens of thousands of enemy vehicles, tanks, guns, machine guns, huge numbers of sub-machine guns, rifles and other enemy armaments, and caused enormous losses to the enemy in men and material.

The guerrilla movement has become a tremendous force in shaking the enemy war machine and in assisting the successful and titanic struggle of the Red

Army against the German invaders.

The movement of the People's Avengers was able to develop on this scale and produce these great results for the cause of victory only because of the activity and initiative of the people behind the enemy lines, directed by the Soviet Government. The Soviet people rallied to the guerrilla movement, determined to bring nearer through armed struggle the hour of liberation of their country from the hated German occupationists.

Fully half the guerrillas are young people. In Byelorussia alone, tens of thousands of youth are in the ranks of the guerrillas. Their work behind the enemy lines covers many spheres of activity and is extremely fruitful. They operate as sappers, scouts, machine gunners, snipers, gunners and radio operators. Young people make the best snipers and the best scouts. Many are commanders of guerrilla columns. They initiate and organize new forms of struggle against the invaders. They are followed by other youth and are praised by the people and the older guerrillas. Over 15,000 young guerrillas have been decorated with medals and orders for distinguished conduct in battle, and over 8,000 have been awarded the Guerrilla of the Patriotic War Medal.

The young guerrillas look upon their work—which demands extreme dedication, will-power and strength—as an everyday wartime matter. Behind the enemy lines, under the most hazardous conditions, they display inexhaustible enthusiasm and energy. Boundless love for their country, implacable hatred of the enemy, steadfastness in battle and high morale—the finest qualities of Soviet youth—are revealed in the immortal deeds of young Soviet guerrillas.

The time will come when hundreds of books will be written about the guerrilla movement, revealing it in all its stern majesty and recounting the great variety and ingenuity of methods of struggle devised by the people against the occupationists. Many famous battles and incidents will be described, and in these books the full names of the heroes of the guerrilla war will be given.

NO BARRIERS FOR THE BRAVE

The following is part of the diary of Comrade 11, a Moscow student who became second-in-command of a guerrilla column which operated in the Bryansk forests:

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Today I filled the last page of a large notebook which I used for a diary, recording events in a forest far from home—the misfortunes and joyful successes of guerrilla life.

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I made the first entries when the snow was just beginning to melt in the fields and water gurgled beneath layers of darkening ice; I finished it when the first snows fell in the Bryansk woods, dressed in their autumn red. To summarize our activities during that time: our column has to its credit 2,000 Germans killed, 12 bridges blown up, 17 trains derailed, and many German trucks and tanks blown up by our mines or fired by our grenades. And the battle is not yet over—and our native woods are still filled with guerrillas!

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March, 1942: We left Moscow from the Kiev railway station. We were volunteers—students from various institutes of Moscow who had formed special detachments for fighting behind the enemy lines. We were assigned the task of crossing the front in the region of the town of Kirov, entering a guerrilla district and beginning operations. What will come of this, time alone will show. Perhaps many of us will never see Moscow again. If need be, we will die like soldiers, so that our country will not be ashamed of the way we died.

To tell the truth, we did not intend to die at all. On the contrary, we meant to live . . . to fight so that the enemy would remember us—remember the guerrillas until his dying day; that his sons and grandsons would remember and would not invade Russian soil.

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April: We are dressed in camouflage suits. The forward positions of our troops have been left far behind. Our guide, a Senior Lieutenant, gave me his kis as a parting gift, and shaking hands said, "God be with you."

We slid over the wet snow on skis, the detachment spread out in single file. The darkness is pierced by

the blaze of a German rocket. Silence reigns over the snowfields. We travel with rucksacks on our backs. To avoid noise, we do not carry sticks. There is only the sound of our whirring skis. At any moment the silence may be broken by the roar of bursting shells and mortar bombs. A 15-kilometer journey is ahead of us—and all around are villages occupied by the enemy.

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We are in the guerrilla region. Here—behind the enemy lines, behind the German army—the Soviet power still lives!

Today is a rest day. In a large house my column is dancing with the village girls to the music of an accordion.

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This morning a group of guerrillas of K.'s column fought a battle with the Germans trying to cross the river near the village of K. The enemy retreated. Two of my comrades were killed in the fighting and the second-in-command of the group was badly wounded.

I was appointed second-in-command of K.'s guerrilla patrol. It was a great honor for me. A runner led me to the column's headquarters, in a house near the station, where the former second-in-command, Fedya, lay. I visited with him, found him somewhat better, and he told me the details of the battle near K. village. Nearly a whole company of Germans got through to our post, removed the sentry and attacked a house where some guerrillas, including Fedya, were resting. The two boys who were killed were very popular in our column: Victor Chernyayev, a happy, agile 17-year-old, who had come to us from a vocational school, and Sergei Zhizhkin, his firm friend. We called them the "two musketeers."

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"Then guerrillas came to our help by way of the river," continued Fedya. "The Germans saw them and began firing sub-machine guns across the river."

We saw the lads running toward us, despite the bullets. The house had become a flaming torch—still they ran to save us. I don't know how we escaped the falling beams. I got out and lay behind a low board fence, firing at the Germans. Our ammunition ran out—the last grenade was used up. Victor was killed. Soon I was wounded in the chest. Another local lad with us was also wounded. I took him under the arms and began to crawl away. Then I got a wound in the leg."

I forbade Fedya to continue. He was excited and restless. It was also time for me to be on my way; it was already getting dark. On the way the guide told me the rest of the story of the battle and how it ended. Under pressure of the guerrilla reinforcements the Germans fled, leaving their wounded and abandoning arms and equipment.

* * *

Our group sent out a special mission, which was to cross the woods to the main road. The road was quiet and empty in the faintly shining moonlight. The lads marched on, approaching warily. Suddenly from one side a tiny red light flew out, described an arc in the air and fell on the road. It was the butt of a German cigarette. Then we heard voices speaking German. The guerrillas would have turned back, but the sound of gravel under foot betrayed them. The Germans fired first—the guerrillas threw themselves on the ground. Two students and myself decided to try to save our main group by attracting the attention of the Germans.

Waving our hands we ran out into the road. When the Germans got over their surprise, they opened fire. This gave our comrades a chance to take cover and get into firing position.

The Germans brought their machine gun out to the road. An explosion! They had placed the gun on a section of the road already mined by the guerrillas—and we and our comrades were saved! It seemed as though German bullets were afraid of Russian courage.

* * *

Went with a group along the Moscow-Kiev railway line. No TNT left, but we had 15 anti-tank mines. It was night and we had to move along the road used by the Germans. There was no other way to the railway. At night the Germans sleep—but the guerrillas are awake.

During the day we hid in the woods, which are now alive with red cherry blossoms and the singing of birds. By way of a dam we reached the railway near a watchman's box. There were Germans in the box, so we turned further south. Again a German patrol! We decided to feel for a weaker section of the railway, and to await darkness in a ditch behind an embankment. We waited about two hours, then set out

to mine the line. The job took about five minutes. The train was expected at two o'clock in the morning. Two o'clock came, but no train. We waited till three—still no train. At dawn a German machine gun began to bark. Nearby, tracers were being fired from a sub-machine gun. We were showered by the green needles of the pines under which we were lying. It was time to get out.

"Here, Elsa!" came a shout from the distance, followed by the sharp bark of a dog. The Germans were hunting us with police dogs. We crawled into the bushes as fast as we could. "Here, Elsa!" The barking came nearer. We ran fast where the bushes were thicker, crawled across places where the vegetation was sparse, then made another run through the bushes. Soft ground gave way under us—there were clumps of sedge-grass, then cold water splashed around our feet and the marshy land covered our tracks! The barking died away in the distance.

* * *

We are back again in the forest paths. It is raining and dark under the trees. We are tired, our feet are blistered—but then things cannot always go smoothly for us. Branches break under our tread, and there are the German sentries and police.

* * *

Nevertheless, the train was blown up by our mines.

* * *

June: Our reconnaissance informs us that the Germans are preparing an attack on the guerrilla district. The scouts said the Germans were sending up troops by truck that night.

The Germans attacked from across the river. They had guns and six-barreled mortars. I was watching the attack from the cover of a small hill—there was more than a battalion of them undertaking the river crossing. They began with artillery preparation. Shells fell in the village and the street was filled with flames.

A messenger came toward me. I could see a dark stain of blood spreading on his sleeve. He frowned impatiently and almost shouted: "The Germans are attacking from the other side." I immediately realized the attack was beginning from the side where we had only two machine guns in ambush. We had very few people on that side of the bluff—the machine-gunner L. and two girls, Anya F. and Natasha O. Help was needed at once. I listened, trying to distinguish the sound of our machine guns. No, they were not firing.

All sound was drowned by shouts and the roar of firing. The Germans were advancing in full formation, yelling at the top of their lungs, "Surrender. Russ! Surrender!"

Still our machine guns did not fire. The Germans



Only a short time before this harvest scene in the Spas-Demyansk area, shells were tearing up the fertile earth—later columns of German prisoners were marched eastward through the fields under guard

were not more than 30 meters from the barrels of our guns. Then it began! The rat-a-tat of our guns shivered the air. The Germans, marching in full height in their column, fell in one direction in rows, like mown grass.

I learned later that L. had organized the whole thing—the others wanted to open fire, but L. forbade them. He wanted to get the Germans as near as possible.

At first the Germans were flabbergasted. Then the first mortar bomb burst in the hollow. Machine-gunner Venya F. fell, wounded. The number two gunner was killed.

"Natasha," shouted Anya. Natasha moved her hand to her breast, started to sit down, turned white and collapsed. The fight lasted 20 minutes. The guerrillas fought well, but the Germans pressed them hard. Natasha recovered consciousness and brought Venya from the firing line. He was losing a lot of blood.

Another mortar bomb burst alongside the machine gun, toppling it over. It was time to withdraw, and the guerrillas retreated through the burning village, again crossing the open fields and groves of sparse trees, then the swamps . . . and on into the depth of the forest.

Everywhere in the forest were people around campfires. The villagers were fleeing from the Germans, taking their belongings, horses and cows. Sparks from fires lit up the dark sky.

* * *

Next morning German aircraft flew over the forest and raked it with machine-gun fire.

* * *

We have had no luck. The Germans burned the villages in our vicinity and it is impossible to get food.

One evening the guerrillas brought in a German. They had spotted him in the bushes and called to him to halt, but the German fled. "He doesn't understand Russian," Fedya told them. "Shout 'halt' in Ger-

man." The German ran faster, losing his boots and firing wildly into the blue. With a despairing howl he ran straight into our ambush.

This German has the face of a criminal and knows only two Russian words—eggs and milk.

* * *

Scouts have returned from D. village and report that many streets of the guerrilla capital were burned, many citizens shot and numerous others made prisoners by the Gestapo.

* * *

Today we ate "fried water"—there was nothing else. We are waiting for a plane to bring us food. All night we kept the fires burning so the pilot would find us more easily. Still the plane did not come. It is bad flying weather.

The guerrillas are tired and hungry. We have moved to another spot. Stretcher-bearers carrying the wounded staggered and almost fell. Venya F.'s wound opened anew. The road through the swamps was most difficult. We sunk up to our knees in mud. I'm on my last legs. My feet and legs are swollen from hunger. And to cap it all—rain! To say nothing of the Germans! They even have sentries in the swamps.

* * *

Today the plane will come—this time we are certain. The lads see food in their dreams.

* * *

Food has not come. We are eating roots—the swamp plants. They are thick and not too bad.

* * *

Today we are eating mushrooms and dewberries. We caught a stray horse—but what is one horse for our hungry crowd?

* * *

This morning Venya F. died.

* * *

Peter S. was asleep at his post this morning. What to do with him? We shall give him three days to rest. The boys are so weak they just fall down and sleep. They even sleep standing.

* * *

July: Two bags of sugar, boxes of rusks, concentrated cereals, soups and coffee cubes! What luxuries. There was a sudden buzzing over the village, as though a huge grasshopper had flown up. It turned out to be a plane, which landed right beside our fire. What a feast we had then! "It's too little," say the airmen who saved our lives. "Now let the Germans look out!"

They told us that 200 Germans were bathing and washing clothes in a neighboring village. We decided to disturb them. We took two mortars and three light machine guns and went around by Lake Svyatoye, a "holy" and beautiful place. Two houses on the

shore of the lake had been burned. Women were raking among the charred ruins. Their faces had a hungry and tortured look. It is impossible to describe what we saw there. We went to the village. There is no village. The Germans had burned it, and were themselves quartered in tents at the foot of the hill across the river. About 30 meters away a big fat sentry was whistling a lively tune.

The bathers were undressed and standing on the river bank. Men in the tents were singing. It was difficult to attack the village—but we had to scare the Germans! A few minutes later our mortars opened fire on the tents. The Germans ran out—only to be mowed down by our machine guns. We suffered no losses, but next day the Germans had to dig at least 30 graves.

* * *

A few days ago Senior Lieutenant Valentin Burovin went out with a group on a special assignment. Burovin was a proud and passionate man. In height he was the shortest in the detachment—we called him "Little Valya,"—but he had a big heart. Before leaving on the assignment he handed us his membership card in the Komsomol and said, "If I do not fulfil my mission, I shall not return."

* * *

Another man from Burovin's group returned wounded, and we learned that the Lieutenant was no longer alive. At exactly one o'clock in the morning his group reached the railway. It was so still they could hear the mosquitoes buzzing over the swamp beyond the railway embankment. The Germans heard the light footfalls of the guerrillas and began firing at them.

Burovin and his men remained hidden in the bushes until the firing died down, then again started crawling toward their objective—the railway line. Again the Germans opened fire. Three times the lads tried to reach the railroad, and each time the German fire drove them back.

It was getting near daybreak; they could see the German sentry. Burovin ordered three of the men to go back, and he and one other remained near the embankment. The sky became brighter. Suddenly the German patrol began firing on the bushes near the tracks. This meant that a train was coming. A chance bullet wounded the man who had remained with Burovin. Just then the sound of a heavy train approaching shook the earth.

Valentin Burovin tied the whole supply of explosives—15 kilograms—to his back, and when the train neared, threw himself under the engine.

This whole story was told us by the wounded guerrilla, who remained in the bushes and later got back to camp. When darkness came I went to the tracks to examine the effect of the explosion. The rails had

been torn up and about 40 boxcars in which Germans were traveling to the front had been smashed.

* * *

August: A storm raged all night. Our shelter was made of leaves and branches from all kinds of trees. It was like lying under a watering-can. Every blade of grass seemed to give off its own aroma under the influence of the rain. How beautiful is the grass of our country!

* * *

The nights are beginning to get colder. I keep warm under the overcoat of one of my comrades. It is an especially wide coat, rainproof and warm. We call it the "war friendship coat"—but we both have to turn over at the same time so as not to drag the coat from each other.

* * *

September: It is an eternity since I have seen a newspaper. Tonight a messenger brought a *Pravda* of August 29. The men reached impatiently for the paper, standing on their toes to read over each other's shoulders. There was an editorial entitled "Glory to Heroes—Contempt for Cowards." It was about our boys—Victor Chernyayev and Sergei Zhizhkin, and their fight against the Germans at village K. It also spoke of their heroic death. This meant that the country knew about us . . .

We read the editorial aloud around our campfire. The boys sat staring into the fire, and no doubt everyone was thinking of our fallen comrades. I looked at Anya and wanted to say something—I recalled that this brave girl, a former student at the Moscow Pharmaceutical Institute, had volunteered to cut barbed wire. She crawled through the wire under constant German fire, and the guerrillas followed her.

* * *

It is getting late. The country is already sleeping the sound wartime sleep. But the guerrilla sentries on the wide front of our camp are not asleep. Our artillery is roaring incessantly, and back there on the "mainland" the war factories are not sleeping.

* * *

One of our groups was ordered to lay an ambush and bring back a "tongue"—a prisoner who would talk. This is not always easy for guerrillas, but in the evening the boys returned with a representative of the "higher race," a man with shaggy, matted hair. His name was Heinrich Mueller. Our men caught him in this manner: In the morning the lads crossed the river, and taking advantage of every bush and every irregularity in the ground, crawled to the village. Here they hid and lay in wait. About midday it began to rain and some women with scythes appeared on the road near where the boys lay. The women were escorted by three Germans, whom they were cursing with the choicest expressions and at the top

of their voices, though the Germans could not understand them.

"They do them honor!" said one of our boys admiringly.

A cart loaded with hay appeared from around a bend with a German lying on top, calmly smoking a pipe. As the women and their German escorts disap-



Soviet nurse Lisa Kozuykova serves with a front-line unit

peared, the guerrillas sprang from ambush, grabbed the German by the legs and dragged him off the cart.

Now he is standing before us, shaking so that his teeth chatter. A fine conqueror! It makes you sick to look at him!

* * *

The Germans garrisoned in the surrounding villages are extremely nervous. The alarm is often sounded at night; then they jump out of bed and rush about

the villages. They hear guerrillas everywhere—in the scratching of a mouse, in the wind rustling in the trees . . . “It is a poor man whose conscience is uneasy.”

But they haven't got uneasy consciences—only black ones! They have plundered all the food from the population and the villagers are dying of hunger. We saw children so weak they could not open their eyes. They lay with closed eyes—tiny mites with tightly-drawn skin. We saw young women, the mothers of these children, sit down in the warm sun and never rise again.

* * *

October: The Germans are putting up four rows of barbed wire along the whole Bryansk-Roslavl railway line. But there are no barriers for the brave! A group commanded by guerrilla S. reached the line—the men had tunneled under the barbed wire! And an hour later a German troop train was blown up.

* * *

It has become still more difficult to reach the railway. At every wayside station the Germans have placed a machine gun each 200 paces, and two patrols march up and down between the guns.

But there are no barriers for the brave! The mines were ready, and tonight the guerrillas left on a mission. Later we heard the roar of an explosion.

* * *

The Germans are getting madder. Now there is a special division guarding the railway. They are cutting down trees for 500 yards on both sides of the station.

Led by a group commander, guerrillas penetrated the bypass line of the station. While the Germans were busy dealing with this catastrophe, our men mined the roadway which passed through the village.

* * *

Our camp has become a building site. Axes ring out . . . the old firs crash down, their branches thick with green needles. By night our “house” is ready.

* * *

November: Building operations are nearly finished. The village, which we call Zemlyanka—(mud-hut)—is gradually becoming a stronghold. Around it are trenches and anti-tank ditches.

When the early autumn night compels us to stop work, we gather around the campfires. The lyrical strains of the guitar have a particularly sweet sound in the forest in the evening silence.

The first snow. The guerrillas fall into parade formation, and the sharp winter wind cuts us to the bone. I look sorrowfully at our uniforms—not intended for winter. The golden summer days are over. Winter is already upon us.

Never mind. We'll get through. The Russian winter is death for the Germans. We somehow feel warmer from that thought alone, and are ready to welcome our ally.

* * *

In the evening we gather around the radio at headquarters. A calm, familiar voice fills the dugout. We are afraid to breathe lest we miss a single word. It seems as if even the trees have stopped rustling and are listening to Stalin.

His last words are addressed to us: “Glory to the men and women guerrilla fighters!”

We embrace each other and clasp hands.

ACCORDIONS FOR THE FRONT

By Boris Zernov

Alexander Smetanin, a 50-year-old accordion maker working in his cubbyhole in a musical instrument store in Kazan, was glad to see me. He had received a letter from the front—Army Field Station No. 54005 was the postmark. The men of this Red Army unit had received a present from the workers of the Tatar Republic—an accordion made by Smetanin. This instrument, now in the hands of the skilled player Sergeant Pavel Shchukin, had proved an effective weapon at the front, wrote the men.

“You are taking part in our struggle out here, since your accordion gives us recreation and relief during lulls. Accept our heartiest thanks.”

Alexander Smetanin has spent more than 20 years making these instruments of which the Russians are so fond. Many years ago he designed a new type of chromatic accordion which won the approval of the Leningrad Institute of Music. Encouraged by this he continued his experiments until he devised a new Soviet accordion.

A true Russian himself, Alexander Smetanin knows how fond the men at the front are of a bit of accordion music and he is working tirelessly on new instruments to be sent to other units of the Red Army. He has already received dozens of letters of thanks from the Army in the field.

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ON THE FIRST UKRAINIAN FRONT

By Evgeny Krieger, *Izvestia* Correspondent

Modern gunpowder is made in such a way that with every fraction of a second its surface of combustion and the pressure of the gases propelling the shell along the barrel do not diminish, but grow and reach their peak at the time the shell leaves the barrel. The impact of our offensive has something in common with the dynamics of this cumulative combustion, with this storm whose fury grows with every fraction of a second in the gun barrel.

Our troops march by night and they march by day, and they know no roof over their heads but the cold starry sky. There is no greater insult to the troops than to be ordered to the second echelon. The men have gained the mastery of a new weapon: the weapon of time, the weapon of incessant assault which leaves the Germans not a single hour of respite.

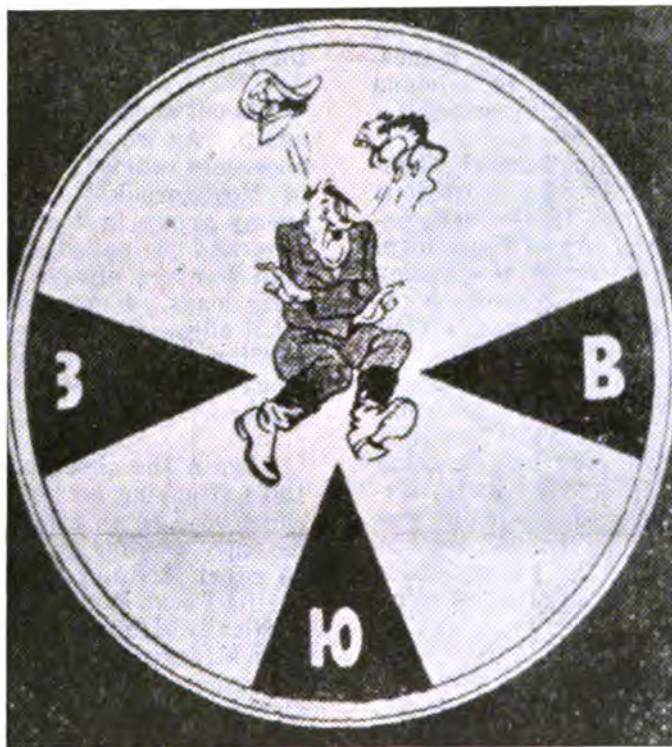
Yesterday I saw the strength of this weapon of time on the road of our offensive. Bridges which remained intact: the Germans had no time to blow them up. Tanks, guns and self-propelled guns stuck or frozen in the snow, or even right in the middle of the road in groups of two or even three. My companion tried to take snapshots of them, but then waved his hand wearily. There is so much of this German junk about.

At every line of their retreat the Germans hope to find safety. Their deliberations and calculations are thwarted by the Russian attack. In a bakery in one town I saw vats of dough. The dough had been

kneaded by German bakers, but it was the bakers of the Russian infantry who made the bread. Our booty squads have a hard time keeping up with the advanced regiments. In one town street fighting was still raging when the Major in charge of the collection of booty was already busy with his forms, entries in which read: 4,000 tons of grain, 400 tons of various cereals, 100 tons of fine table salt, 1,600 tons of flour, 63 trucks

and motorcars of various makes, 21 motorcycles, a tannery in working order with a many months' stock of war materials, a printshop and 10 tons of paper, an ammunition store, a stock of medicines of the Bayer firm, dressing materials, et cetera. . . . The files grow thicker and thicker.

The Major says: "The scale of our job has grown. We are no longer content with picking up what the Germans leave. Haven't you noticed that the track at the railway station was not blown up? What does that mean? It means that the Germans still hoped to be able to drive away their trains, but we gave them no time to do that." The Major spoke in an inspired way, as a poet of his work.



"From the East, West and South"

New design for compass approved by the Teheran Conference

Cartoon by Boris Efimov

Even in the prosaic lists of the Commissary Department one sees the scope of our January offensive. The mounting tide of the Russian attacks overtakes the Germans on all lines. German headquarters spend their time on wheels. They cannot afford to get under a roof: they don't know when and where the Russians will appear. And their losses! We were present at

the interrogation of one prisoner from a battery of a German tank division. He was asked: "Why did you surrender without resistance?" He answered: "There was no one left in the battery except me." "Where is your division?" "Which division? There's no division any more. The division—that's me." This is the humor of the German soldier of 1944. We doubt if the German generals find it funny.

Here is the Russian counterpart of this German prisoner. I heard the commander of a tank brigade complain: "I can't find men for the technical services. I need fitters. I found one—a fitter of the first class, a real man, just the kind I need. I ordered him to proceed to the rear, and believe me, there were tears

in his eyes. 'What have I done that you are sending me to the rear?' he asks. 'What's my fault?' And it's the same story with all of them—they don't want to go to the rear. They all want to be in the firing lines. 'We want to be in the offensive too,' they say. 'Aren't we Russians?'"

One Corps Commander told me: "Do you want to know what I rely upon in an offensive? On the amazing, unexampled confidence of our men in their success in an operation. When I sit over my map in my dugout, I may have my doubts. But when I see the men in the regiment, in the battalion, there is no more doubt. They will do anything! They will carry out any order!"

Soviet Fliers Give Strong Support to Ground Forces

By M. Vlasov

We are on a level airdrome powdered with the first snow. Strictly speaking, it is an ordinary field, on the fringe of which squat Lavochkin-5 fighter planes, near blindages occupied by fliers, ground technicians and anti-aircraft gunners guarding the airdrome.

Lieutenant Colonel Pyatkov, Regimental Commander, told us briefly of the battles on the previous day, when his airmen brought down 18 German machines without suffering a single loss of their own. The Commander mentioned that six of the enemy planes were shot down by Flight Leader Senior Lieutenant Ivan Sklyarov, and we decided to pay a visit to this 22-year-old ace.

Approaching the blindage which served as command post for Sklyarov, we found a blond youth of medium height standing near the entrance, wearing fur-lined boots and a khaki-colored flying suit. Despite the cold wind sweeping the field, his collar was open and the earflaps of his helmet pushed up. A pistol swung at his hip. We asked the young Senior Lieutenant to tell us about the flight of the preceding day.

"The morning started out as usual," he said. "I got orders to cover our ground forces and took off, accompanied by four other Lavochkin-5's. Soon we spotted 30 Junkers 87's, which had come up to bomb our troops, escorted by two Messerschmitt fighters. I turned sharply and dove straight at the enemy formation. My comrades were right behind me. I caught one Junkers in my sights and fired my cannon from about 40 meters off. The bomber caught fire and crashed into the woods. Then I went after another. My cannon was working perfectly and the second Junkers went down in flames. Junior Lieutenant Mikheyev brought down another buzzard, and the rest of the Junkers turned tail, dumped their

bombs on an empty field and shot for their base. The sky was suddenly clear of Nazi raiders. Our time for patrol duty was up and we returned to base.

"About three in the afternoon our quintet took off again. As we approached the front lines one of my observers radioed: 'Two groups of Junkers 87's south of Novogorodki.' I decided to attack the distant enemy group first and then tackle the other formation, and we sailed straight into the Junkers. German bombers always fly in a circle before releasing their loads. I got onto the tail of one machine and set it afire. Swinging around I saw another Junkers heading toward me on a parallel course. I gave it a long machine gun burst, and my fourth victim crashed. The other Luftwaffe pilots scooted for home.

"Again the observed radioed: 'Thirty Focke-Wulf 190's attacking on highway.' If the Focke-Wulf was being used as an attack plane, the Germans were apparently sending up all their machines that day in an effort to stop our advancing columns. I crept up on the Focke-Wulfs. They were stubbornly and methodically strafing several of our trucks—by the way they attacked, one would have believed that a huge tank column was rolling along the highway. The Nazi airmen knew they were perfectly safe because the trucks had no anti-aircraft guns.

"I swooped down suddenly on the German fighter nearest to me. The Nazi plane dropped out of the circle of Focke-Wulfs, came out of its dive about 50 meters above the ground and started slowly toward the German base, then suddenly flopped on the field and turned over. Meanwhile I shot up into the clouds, and on coming out of them found myself on the tail of another Focke-Wulf. My aim was exceptionally good that day, and this German craft also crashed on its belly."

BALTIC AIR HEROES

By Major Peter Myagkov

In a single day recently a group of attack pilots of the Baltic Air Fleet sank two enemy patrol boats and one trawler, and damaged two others.

Scouts reported the appearance of the enemy vessels. The Soviet planes, headed by Flight Lieutenant Ageyenko, took off immediately. The weather was brilliantly clear and sunny. Soon the fliers sighted three enemy patrol boats and three trawlers. Ageyenko radioed the order to attack.

Closing in on the vessels, the fighters were met by a heavy anti-aircraft barrage. But they pushed through the curtain of fire and attacked. A direct hit sent one of the patrol boats to the bottom.

Then an enemy shell struck Senior Lieutenant Krotevich's plane and set it on fire. Krotevich and his navigator, Ivan Bykov, had been in many tough spots. During 1943 they had sunk four fascist patrol boats, four trawlers, one landing barge and one transport. Their motto was to return to base only when out of ammunition.

Now they had only two alternatives—to bail out and risk capture by the Nazis, or to remain in the plane, which would at any second be blown up by its own bombs. Apparently they wasted no time making up their minds. The other fliers saw the blazing plane head straight for the German trawler from which came the most furious anti-aircraft fire. The plane crashed, a yellow flash leaped high and a dense cloud of black smoke rose and gradually dispersed over the spot where the trawler had been.

The men of the Baltic revenged themselves fiercely for the death of their comrades. A flight headed by guards Lieutenant Karagodin dived twice on the enemy vessels, seriously damaging one of the trawlers. Group by group the attack planes yielded the targets to one another; before the enemy could repel one attack, another group was upon him. All but one of the vessels were sunk or damaged, and the remaining fliers returned safely to their base.

Commissions for Scientific Research

The Commission for Scientific Study of Problems of Electro-Communications is to resume its work on radio and cable communications. Another commission will work on problems of steam under high pressures and temperatures, and yet another on building methods and materials.



(1) Planes of the Northern Fleet set out on a mission; (2) Air base of a mine and torpedo carrier regiment of the Northern Fleet; (3) Approaching the target

THOUGHTS AND HOPES OF CZECHOSLOVAK SOLDIERS

By Brigadier General Ludvik Svoboda

Commander of First Czechoslovak Brigade in USSR

The last days of 1943 were happy ones for us Czechoslovak soldiers in the USSR. Czechoslovak soldiers visited the Kremlin, where they were presented with high Soviet awards; three of our officers were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Doctor Eduard Benes, President of the Republic, decorated our brigade and a number of officers and men with Czechoslovak medals.

We were also overjoyed by the fact that the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia recently concluded a treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and postwar collaboration. It is difficult to imagine the pleasure of our soldiers when they heard of the conclusion of this treaty. We had already signed it in the blood we shed at Sokolovo and at Kiev. Our military activities cemented the friendship between the peoples of the USSR and Czechoslovakia, a friendship which is the guarantee of our common victory, our independence and the establishment of a really democratic Czechoslovakia after the war.

In the battle at Sokolovo we first tried out our strength, fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with the Red Army against the Hitlerite bandits. The second test was even more honorable and more responsible: we were permitted to take part in the liberation of Kiev, mother of Russian cities—a city which is dear to us. The taking of Kiev meant the final collapse of the plans of the German command to spend the winter on the banks of the Dnieper. We knew that the battle for Kiev was a battle for Prague, Brno, Bratislava and Uzgoros—that we had now drawn much nearer the frontiers of Czechoslovakia. This was an inspiration to us.

In this recent fighting we were once again convinced that the men of the Red Army are excellent soldiers. Their spirit is adamant. Great is their love for their country, and unquenchable their thirst for vengeance. The Red Army man is the embodiment of the soldier-liberator. We are proud to be fighting together with them.

I am eternally grateful to the Soviet Government, the Soviet people and the Red Army for the assistance they have given us. This assistance is a practical demonstration of Slav brotherhood and is the guarantee of our victory. We will repay our great ally by remembering our motto: "Faith for Faith."

Since we have been on the Soviet-German front I have seen with my own eyes the results of German crimes in the Ukraine, the ruined cities and burned villages. I heard terrible stories from local people

concerning the murders of civilians and the compulsory shipping of hundreds of thousands of them to Germany. Our feelings of hatred for the enemy have become stronger and the thirst for vengeance has taken deeper root in our hearts.

We know that victory awaits us. We also know that the struggle is not yet over and that victory still



Brigadier General Ludvik Svoboda

has to be won. We are ready to make a still greater effort and to be still more ruthless in the struggle against the German bandits. The present situation demands the concentration of all Allied forces in the West and the increased active struggle of the peoples of all the occupied countries.

(Continued on page five)

A Daughter of Czechia

By A. Anatolyeva

This is the story of a young Czech schoolgirl who put three German tanks out of action during the fighting on the Dnieper.

* * *

Zinaida Vlodok was a student in the Medical College of Prague University. On a cold day in March, 1939, the Germans entered Prague and the terror began: pogroms, arrests, shootings and slavery.

Zinaida was sitting one day in the large reading-room of the University library, engrossed in her studies. Suddenly a German SS man entered and ordered everyone out of the building. When Zinaida emerged she saw clouds of smoke billowing from the windows. The library was burning—its kerosene-drenched bookshelves had been ignited and were going up in flames. Rare and irreplaceable books, the pride of the University, were devoured. The acrid smoke of the conflagration spread over the entire city.

The Germans closed Prague University and mobilized the students for work in the munitions plants. Zinaida was sent to the Skoda Works. German overseers stood behind the machines, watching every movement of the operators. It was horrible to feel that you were working for the enemy, that the shells made by your hands would fall upon your fellow-countrymen, perhaps upon your own family; that these bombs would go crashing down upon quiet and peaceful cities.

Let the German overseer stand behind you . . . let him follow carefully all your movements. Skilled and determined hands will find a way to spill sand into the shell, to fill a bomb with crushed stone, and sometimes even to enclose a note: "This is all we can do at present to help you, friends."

One night Zinaida and her brother, a flier, determined upon a dangerous venture. They fled, making their way across the Rumanian border. Luck was with them and they reached England. The name of young Vlodok has now won deserved fame in the Royal Air Force—his squadron of Mosquito Bombers has carried death and destruction to the Germans.

As soon as news of the formation of the First Czech Brigade in the Soviet Union reached her, Zinaida knew that her place was with those shedding their blood for the freedom of Czechoslovakia. A long and difficult road lay ahead; the young girl traveled thousands of kilometers by land and sea to reach the Soviet Union by way of Iran.

Since then she has been fighting the Germans in the ranks of the Czechoslovak Brigade. During the battle for Kharkov she saved the lives of 80 wounded men and was awarded the Soviet Order of the Red Banner and the Czechoslovak Military Cross.

When the Czechoslovak troops fought shoulder-to-shoulder with the Red Army to drive the Germans from the beautiful city of Kiev, Zinaida Vlodok was always close to the front, checking up on the work of the Nurses' Corps. The fighting became so fierce the stretcher-bearers could not take care of all the wounded. Zinaida saw her friend Maria struck down by a shell splinter and immediately took her place. She crept ahead through a hail of fire, saving the lives of many men.

The Germans launched a powerful tank counter-attack. Slowly, steadily, the armored monsters advanced. Three tanks detached themselves from a group and made straight for Zinaida, who was trying to remove the wounded from their path. The tanks rolled forward relentlessly and it appeared that in another moment they would crush the wounded soldiers.

Nearby stood an anti-tank gun with three dead gunners beside it. Zinaida dashed to the gun and began to fire on the advancing tanks. A shell splinter struck her in the side, but she continued to fire: for Czechoslovakia! For golden Prague! For every book in the University library!

The first tank was hit and stopped in its tracks. The second burst into flames. Finally the third came to a standstill.

CZECHOSLOVAK SOLDIERS

(Continued from page four)

We must remember that everyone who is interested in victory must fight for it. The Czechoslovak soldiers here at the front are doing their duty with honor. I have no doubt that the Czechoslovak people in their own country are also doing their duty. The Red Army men are an example of heroism for us, and the Soviet guerrillas will serve as an example to our people.

The Christmas and New Year's festivals in our homes before the war were for us days of peace and quietness. But there can now be neither peace nor quiet in our country so long as the jackboot of even one German soldier treads on Czechoslovak soil. We are fighting that there may be peace and quiet in our country for all men of goodwill.

Thanks to the successes of the Red Army, the end of Hitler Germany is already certain. The day is not far ahead when we will cross the frontiers of our country with the Red Army.

Carol the Second—"Free Rumanian"

The following appeared in Number 1 of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

The activities of anti-fascist emigrants from the occupied and vassal countries of Europe naturally attract deep interest and attention. It is common knowledge, however, that in many cases the title "champion of freedom" is adopted by people who have very little claim to it.

Incidentally, such people are to be found among the not very numerous body of Rumanian emigrants. The label "free Rumania" is sometimes sported by individuals whom it fits least of all.

One of these, for instance, is Viorel Tilya, Rumanian ex-ambassador to England, who after the outbreak of war remained in London. From time to time this ex-diplomat writes for the newspapers deeply-felt articles about Rumania. In form, of course, they are directed against Antonescu, but Tilya takes advantage of the opportunity to put in a word in justification of Rumania's piratical "right" to Bessarabia. There is nothing surprising in this, if we bear in mind that Tilya was appointed ambassador by the government which abolished the constitution and had no little

hand in the fascization of Rumania.

But an even more colorful figure, perhaps, is another "free Rumanian," who at present is biding his time in far-off Mexico. We are referring to the ex-king of Rumania, Carol the Second. For a long time he lay low. But sensing imminent changes he has now abandoned his scheme of forming a *cafe chantant* trust and has decided to come forward in the role of "victim of fascism."

This strangler of every manifestation of democracy, this comic opera field marshal who dreamed of annexation of foreign territory long before Antonescu appeared on the scene, this individual who bears a good share of the blame for converting Rumania into a den of Hitlerism, now comes forward under the guise of an "old champion of democracy."

This masquerade is highly significant. Antonescu's regime has not long to live. But "free Rumanians" of the type of Carol the Second and Tilya are quite ready to replace him at the helm of power, and consider themselves eminently suited for the job. There can be little doubt that the most bitter disappointment awaits them.

BRUTAL FINNISH RULE IN PETROZAVODSK

By N. Kononov

Petrozavodsk, capital of the Karelian-Finnish Republic, lived well and cheerfully both winter and summer. The polished snow mounds in its playgrounds rang with the voices of children; skating-rinks were brightly illuminated. In the evening theaters and cinemas were crowded; during the day production went on apace in its enterprises.

It is a long time since Petrozavodsk has seen a bright day. The city is now enveloped in the twilight of a continuous nightmare. The Finns renamed the place "Aanislinna"—the "Castle on the Onega." Yes, it is a castle, for a specific purpose—a castle of detention, a Finnish prison for hard labor. Its population has declined by one-half. Soviet citizens driven here from districts temporarily in the clutches of the Finns now live in barracks in the suburbs surrounded by barbed-wire entanglements.

In the city there are six concentration camps—that is, the entire town has become a great concentration camp where slavery, back-breaking toil, hunger and torture are the rule. As torturers the Finns are striving to outdo the German hangmen.

Interrogation by the Finns is inevitably accompanied by torture. This is verified by numerous docu-

ments, medical affidavits and by the testimony of Finnish soldiers and officers taken prisoner. When Red Army man Rivulin was being interrogated, the Finns put out his left eye and severed his carotid artery. Rekola Reino, a Finnish lieutenant taken prisoner by Soviet troops, admitted that "unless requested by the command to bring a prisoner to the staff, the Finns do their interrogating and murdering on the spot."

Torture is the inevitable procedure at all interrogations for village and city people. Whipping with a knout has been legalized on all occupied territory. Floggings are generally administered in public. Hanging and shooting are carried out without a trial.

* * *

In the village school of Nizovo the youngsters were having their Finnish language class. The Russian language was forbidden. The children on the benches seemed frightened and weary. There was no food. The harvest had been confiscated. The director of the school entered. Vicious as ever he gloated over the children and said, "You are behaving badly. Until now I have been beating you with birch twigs which I prepared myself. Tomorrow each of you must bring

a bunch of twigs. Whoever fails to do so will be beaten first."

No opportunities are missed at this school to administer a beating. The children are beaten for resorting to their native language, for disrespect, for being unprepared with their lessons. Children are frequently beaten into unconsciousness. Such a beating was administered to schoolboy Lebedev in the Sheltozersk village school, and to schoolboys Vasya Isakov and Kostya Tupitsyn in the Vedlozersk village school. In each of these schools whips hang in prominent places on the wall. The children are frequently beaten on the streets as well. When 13-year-old Pasha Trofimov crossed the path of a commandant, the latter beat the boy severely.

* * *

In the occupied Karelian villages the Finns confiscated all collective farm property. They seized the seed funds, cattle and all agricultural implements and machinery; then they methodically pillaged the individual farmsteads. In addition to food they carted off all personal belongings: samovars, clothing, furniture, household articles.

A new bandit's decree was recently issued in the occupied villages. Each peasant was obliged to buy a hectare of land for which he was to pay 2,000 marks to the Bank of Finland by January 1. Those who failed to do so were threatened with concentration camps. As might be expected not a single peasant was able to raise 2,000 marks, and four barges eventually left from Onget. They were crowded with unfortunates being shipped to Finland to become soldiers and slaves.

* * *

Finland's bosses waded to power in a sea of blood. Hangmen with a long service record, they reared an entire generation of political hooligans, jailbirds and sadists like themselves for the purpose of creating a "greater Finland"—a Finland extending to the Urals. This fantastic scheme of Finnish imperialism never was and never shall be realized. Having staked all on the fate of Hitlerite Germany, Finland now stands on the brink of catastrophe. The hour of retribution is drawing near. The Finnish hangmen will receive their just deserts.

Cobalt from the Urals

By V. Dudavsky

Some of the uses of cobalt, a mineral of very remarkable properties, were known in ancient times. Cobalt was used as a pigment in the blue glass that embellished the tombs of the Pharaohs and the cities of Hellas. The rich blues in the windows of Gothic cathedrals in the Middle Ages owed their origin to an admixture of this mineral in the thick glass. It was very largely used in ceramics and in painting. Its toughness made it valuable in alloys, in tools and cutters, to which it imparted hardness, thus raising the output of metal-working machines.

Cobalt possesses other, more dangerous qualities. Added to the explosives in shells and bullets, it acquires great destructive force. It also gives impermeability to tank and aircraft armor-plating.

Before the war, the output of this metal, so vital to the war industry, was inconsiderable, and supplies were almost entirely controlled by our Allies.

In the USSR, too, extraction was not very large. A small quantity was obtained by hydro-metallurgical methods from cobalt ores and by-products of copper smelting. A few years before the war, however, considerable quantities were found in the nickel ores of the Kazakhstan and Murmansk Regions. Deposits were discovered of cobalt, manganese-cobalt and arseno-cobalt ores.

Among the Urals' resources were deposits of copper-pyrites, copper-nickel and silicate-nickel ores,

which contained cobalt. Though their existence and their location had been known for over a century, their exploitation was never attempted. Their complex character, the low percentage of cobalt they contained, demanded too elaborate a process of extraction: very costly appliances were required, and this made the whole process unprofitable from an economic standpoint.

But the problem of obtaining cobalt acquired increasing importance for the Soviet war industry. The rapidly developing aircraft and tank industry required it; it was needed in the production of armor-plating, armor-piercing bullets and shells. A growing demand for cobalt also came from the metal-working industries, where high-speed tool steels of particular hardness were needed.

But if cobalt was to be obtained on a large industrial scale from the Ural ores, it was necessary to work out a new and efficient technology for the dressing and separation of complex ores. Experiments were carried out on a big scale at one of the dressing plants in the Urals. These were preceded by numerous laboratory experiments. Soviet scientists solved the problem of dressing and separating cobalt ores into their compound minerals.

The opening of the cobalt mines in the Urals was speeded up. Now they are fulfilling their production program. The dressing plants keep pace with output.

Notes from Front and Rear

December 1 was the first school day at the Voronezh Suvorov Military School. At 6 A. M. the signal to get up sounded in the dormitories. A quarter of an hour later the pupils of the 20 departments were out walking before early breakfast, which was followed by preparations for lessons. In the junior and senior preparatory classes lessons lasted for four hours, and in the main classes for six hours, with breaks for lunch and an afternoon walk. After the school day came dinner, rest, then games, reading and music. In the evening the pupils studied.

One department is headed by Senior Lieutenant Kharchenko, twice decorated, who fought at Stalingrad and Voronezh. Many of the young pupils took part in the fighting during the Patriotic War.

★

Moscow music lovers recently heard Vladimir Myaskovsky's latest work—his TWENTY-FOURTH SYMPHONY—performed by the State Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Radinsky. This is the third symphony completed by Myaskovsky since the war began.

★

Operations have been successfully performed with the help of an X-ray screen at the Stalinabad base hospital under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel of Medical Service Mikhailov. In one case a splinter had to be removed from the region of the pelvis, but was difficult to locate. Photographs did not give results. Professor Mikhailov then proposed to perform the operation directly under the X-ray screen. The operation was successful, and the method was repeated in other cases with positive results.

★

A conference on the history of Russian art and art criticism was recently held in Moscow under the auspices of the Soviet Government's Committee for Art Affairs. Many artists, architects, historians of the arts, art critics and sculptors participated.

★

All dramatic and operatic theaters of USSR gave week-day morning performances for school children during the winter holiday. Seventy-five per cent of the tickets for the Sunday morning performances were reserved for children, and there were free shows for the children of Red Army men. Circus and concert artists performed in the schools during the holidays. Concert brigades and dramatic companies toured the village schools.

The Moscow Automobile and Motorcycle Club and the Athletic Association of the Soviet Trade Schools recently staged a "Moscow-Podolsk-Moscow" motorcycle run. Of the ten participants from the trade schools, the youngest was Leonid Mayorov, who had just turned 15. First to cross the finish line was 17-year-old Valentina Semenova.

★

A Soviet scientific commission is now in Novosibirsk, organizing a Western Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Novosibirsk will become an important scientific center. The Academy will establish four institutes in the city—for chemistry and metallurgy, mining and geology, medicine and biology, and transport and power.

★

Official "military humorists" have appeared in a German propaganda unit on the Soviet front. They have apparently been roped in because the German command is concerned about the declining sense of humor among its soldiers. War prisoners state that the general feeling among the German soldiers is that very few of them stand a chance of coming through this winter alive, and they are becoming more and more depressed.

★

The Soviet Academy of Sciences has a special institute to deal with transport problems. Its chief task will be to study technical and technical-economic questions, and the coordination of all kinds of transport.

★

In Minsk the German military authorities have created several special groups for the destruction of graves in the outskirts of the town. These groups are digging up the many pits in which thousands of Soviet citizens done to death by the Germans were buried. They drag the corpses out, pour petrol over them and burn them. The Soviet citizens who are forced, under threat of shooting, to dig up the pits, are killed and their corpses also burned.

A similar task is being carried out by the German military authorities in the town of Orsha. In the latter half of November, the Germans set out to hide the graves in which they had buried many peaceful Soviet citizens. The corpses were transferred to the Orsha flax mill in trucks and flung into the furnaces.

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WAR ECONOMY OF THE USSR IN 1943

By Nikolai Nemov

The year 1943 was a momentous one in the history of the titanic struggle of the peoples of the USSR against Hitler Germany. It was marked not only by the Red Army's victories, but also by further rapid strides in the development of the country's war economy.

In the war against Nazi Germany the Soviet Union is engaged in a difficult contest with the industry of the European Continent, enslaved by the Hitlerites—an industry producing large quantities of weapons, and being continually modernized.

The Soviet Union has acquitted itself with honor in this contest. All through the war the Nazis, however hard they have tried, have not succeeded in gaining superiority over the Red Army as regards the quality of armaments. The year 1943 also brought a sharp increase in the quantity of the Red Army's war equipment. This has been most cogently demonstrated by its victories on the fronts.

The Soviet Army now has superiority over the German army in the number of tanks, aircraft, automatic rifles and other weapons. This is a result of the



On January 18, 1944, Soviet troops broke the blockade of Leningrad. The city's heroic workers had a share in the victory—each morning tanks completed during the night roared down Nevsky Prospekt to the front

progress made by Soviet industry in 1943. According to preliminary accounts, the aircraft industry of the USSR exceeded its plan for 1943, which provided for a large increase in output as compared with 1942. One aircraft plant produced in 1943 almost one and one-half times as many machines as in the preceding year. Another plant doubled its output of fighter planes.

There was a still larger increase in the output of tanks, artillery, mortars, automatic rifles and ammunition. The Stalin artillery works increased its output of guns 18-fold as compared with the prewar output. This plant completed its plan for 1943 on December 1; in the remaining 30 days of the year it produced additional guns sufficient to arm dozens of artillery regiments and tank brigades. In 1943 one plant produced a million automatic rifles.

During the first half of 1943 Soviet industry supplied the Red Army with one and one-half times the amount of ammunition produced in the first half of 1942.

Referring to the increase in the production of armaments in the past year, Marshal Joseph Stalin pointed out in his speech of November 6, 1943 that in the past year the country was no longer confronted with such tasks as the evacuation of industrial plants to the east and the switching of industry to the production of armaments. That was accomplished in 1941-42. "Our Soviet State now possesses an efficient and rapidly expanding war economy," Stalin said.

Soviet war economy has developed at an unprecedentedly rapid pace, thanks to the industrial and technical base built up in the Soviet Union in the prewar decade. This base proved so vast and flexible that even under the extremely difficult conditions of the first months of war it was quickly geared to war needs

and transplanted to the eastern part of the country. It proved capable of making good the deficiencies which resulted from the loss of the rich Donets coal fields, the southern metallurgical industry, and a number of large industrial plants captured by the Germans during the early stages of the war.

The rapid expansion of the war economy of the USSR is illustrated, for example, by the following facts concerning the metallurgical industry, which is the base of war industry: Metallurgical plants in the Urals and Siberia, which supply our war industry with special steels and rolled goods of intricate shapes, considerably increased their output in 1943. The output of pig iron in the country as a whole increased by approximately 18 per cent and the output of steel by 17 per cent.

Soviet workers, engineers, designers, scientists and leaders of industry are making utmost use of the high technique of production and vast reserves of Soviet economy to achieve the further expansion and perfection of the Red Army's armament and fighting equipment. The output of our war industries has grown primarily as a result of the higher productivity of labor and the improved and speeded-up processes of production. During the past year the productivity of labor increased by 38 per cent in the tank building industry, by 30 per cent in the aircraft industry, 27 per cent in the electric power industry and 15 per cent in the munitions industry.

Technological improvements and efficiency methods considerably accelerated the process of the production of tanks at one plant. If we take as 100 the amount of labor consumed in the production of a tank according to the plan of January 1, 1942—this was reduced to 76 by January 1 of the next year, and to 53 by October 1, 1943. The number of parts in a tank have been reduced by 3,202 and their nomenclature by 251.

WAR OF RAILS

A "war of the rails" of great magnitude is going on in Soviet territory occupied by the German invaders. The most important railways are being destroyed, weakening the maneuvering capacity of the Germans. In a message which fell into the hands of Soviet troops near Kirovograd, Hans Mueller, a German officer, reported to his command that Ukrainian guerrillas recently carried out "an operation unparalleled in scope, preventing German supplies from moving by sudden disruption of railway communications." In the first two nights after his arrival in this sector of the Soviet-German front "the guerrillas effected 6,684 explosions in German-occupied territory," Mueller wrote.

The principal figures in the "war of the rails" are young Soviet guerrilla sappers. In December a detachment of guerrillas under the command of 19-year-old Peter S., in a district of the Rovno Region, smashed 10 enemy locomotives and 168 cars and blew up four railway bridges. In the Odessa Region Hitler's Rumanian vassals three times restored an important railway bridge, which the guerrillas blew up each time in spite of a strong guard. It is reported the German authorities recently restored the bridge for the fourth time, and distrusting the Rumanians, placed their own guard of 30 Germans there. Next day the guerrillas killed all the German guards and again blew up the bridge.

"... after seven days of fighting the troops of the Volkhov and Leningrad Fronts on January 18 joined forces and broke through the blockade of Leningrad."

Communiqué of Soviet Information Bureau, January 19, 1942

A MAN OF LENINGRAD

At a time when heroic deeds had become a commonplace in Leningrad—when indeed every day of life in the beleaguered city might have been regarded as an act of heroism, and the old concepts of the limits of man's endurance and physical and moral steadfastness had been swept away—even then locomotive engineer Vasili Eliseyev stood out as a man of utter devotion and selflessness.

In January, 1942 the last meager supplies of bread and fuel in Leningrad had been exhausted. The city was without water and without light. At this moment of crisis, the Leningrad Soviet called upon the city's railway workers to exert all efforts to increase the transportation of food over the railroad across the ice of Lake Ladoga, and to bring peat for fuel from the nearest sources.

Engineer Eliseyev was assigned to this work, and into it he put every ounce of strength he could summon. After a run he did not go home, but snatched some sleep at the station, to conserve even the energy that a walk to his house and back would require. He was feeble from hunger, cold and exhaustion, but nothing could daunt his will to work. Knowing that part of the fate of Leningrad rested in his hands, he drove his train under a hurricane of artillery fire—and broke records. The more his physical strength was drained, the more he steeled himself to work with redoubled fury. On each run he carried the maximum of freight in the minimum of time.

Soon the power stations were able to supply factories and plants with electricity, and the city and the front received new life from the ceaseless activities of the Leningrad patriots.

Engineer Vasili Eliseyev has been decorated with the highest award of the Soviet Union, the Order of Lenin. Speaking of the trying days of the blockade, the hero engineer said simply, "When I saw the huge power stations standing idle and the city so badly in need of light and power, it broke my heart. I decided not to leave the cabin of my engine until I had got fuel to the stations. I worked as my conscience prompted, doing all that I could. Now that I have received this high award, I feel I must work harder than ever—and I will."

Today the blockade is over and working conditions in Leningrad have changed. Vasili Eliseyev, whose health is greatly improved, now drives trains into the city from a station which in that terrible winter

was known as "the mainland." The front is still near—Eliseyev still works for days without rest, still drives his train with a steady hand under artillery fire, still makes his heroic runs.

But some time ago he visited Moscow, and it was then he told me joyfully that besides food and fuel he now delivers other freight—such as books from Moscow for Leningrad libraries, and carloads of scenery for its theaters, which have now returned from the interior, where they were evacuated during the grave threat to the city.



DAWN IN LENINGRAD—Traffic hums and streets soon fill with busy people. Only shattered buildings bear witness that during the night the Germans and Finns continued their evil work

In Peace and in War, Scientists of USSR



Vladimir Komarov, botanist, President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR since 1936. The 190 works from his pen include "The Flora of Manchuria" and "The Flora of Kamchatka Peninsula" (three volumes). He has twice received the Stalin Prize—for his book "Theory of Plant Species" and for his guidance of Soviet scientists in the problem of the economic development of the Urals in wartime. He also wears the Red Banner of Labor Order



Abram Joffe, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences and Director of the Leningrad Physico-Technical Institute, is known for his researches in the field of electron semi-conductors, the results of which have been published in his "Semi-conductors in Physics and Technology." His other works include "Lectures on Molecular Physics," and "A Course in Physics." He has been awarded the Order of Lenin and a Stalin Prize



Alexander Baikov, first Vice President of the Academy of Sciences, is an expert on astringents, metallurgy and metallography. A number of questions in railway engineering and in methods of testing metals have been solved under his guidance; also problems concerning the technology of transforming phosphor irons and obtaining fertilizer from slags. He has been awarded the Order of Lenin, the Badge of Merit and a Stalin Prize

Peter Kapitza—physicist, Director of the Institute of Physical Problems of the Academy of Sciences. From 1921-35 Kapitza worked in Lord Rutherford's laboratory in Cambridge. He has twice received the Stalin Prize—for his work on low temperatures and its application in the liquefying of air, and for the discovery and investigation of the hyperfluidity of liquid helium—and has also been awarded the Order of Lenin



Sergei Vavilov—physicist, Director of the Lebedev Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences, and chief of scientific research work of the State Institute of Optics, has worked out a theory of fluorescence, investigated the limits of the applicability of the optic principle of superpositions, and established that the coefficient of light absorption is independent of its luminous intensity. He has been awarded the Stalin Prize and the Red Banner of Labor Order



Ivan Vinogradov—outstanding Russian mathematician, known for his new theory of numbers and his solution of the famous Goldbach problem. He is a member of the Royal Society of London and honorary member of the London and other mathematical societies. For his work "A New Method in the Analytical Theory of Numbers" he has been awarded a Stalin Prize



Render Notable Services to Their Country



Leon Orbeli, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences—head of the Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and of the Biological Station in Pavlovo (formerly Koltushi)—a leading Soviet physiologist. Two of his most outstanding works are "Lectures on the Physiology of the Nervous System" and "Conditioned Reflexes in Dogs." For the former he was awarded a Stalin Prize. He has also been decorated with the Red Banner of Labor Order



Trofim Lysenko, President of the All-Union Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Vice Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Lysenko has made a study of problems of vernalization, developed a new agro-technical method of pruning cotton plants, evolved new varieties of summer wheat and cotton, and achieved important results in raising the yield of seeds. He has received the Order of Lenin and two Stalin Prizes



Dmitri Pryanishnikov, founder of Russian agro-chemistry, who has published more than 360 papers and written text-books on agro-chemistry and agriculture. He has been decorated with the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, and has received a Stalin Prize

Alexei Favorsky—well-known in the field of organic chemistry, in which he created a new branch... the chemistry of acetylene and its derivatives. He also worked out a new process for obtaining isoprene rubber. For his industrial method of synthesis of isoprene rubber he was awarded a Stalin Prize. He wears the Order of the Red Banner of Labor



Vladimir Obruchev—Russian geologist and geographer, author of 300 works, among the most important of which are "Ore Deposits," "The History of Geological Research in Siberia" (four volumes), and "A Course in Field Geology." He was twice awarded the P. Chikhachev Prize of the French Academy. In the USSR his "Geology of Siberia" won him the Stalin Prize, and he has been decorated with the Order of the Red Banner of Labor



Eugene Tarle, historian—author of many volumes on the history of the West and of Russia, including "A History of Italy in the Middle Ages," "The Working Class of France During the Revolutionary Epoch" (two volumes), "Napoleon," "Talleyrand" and "The Crimean War." For the last he received a Stalin Prize, and for his work on a collectively-compiled "History of Diplomacy" (Vol. I), he was awarded a second Stalin Prize



Scientists of the USSR



Vyacheslav Volgin, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences—historian-sociologist, author of works on J. Meslier, on Babeufism and on Saint-Simon; and "Notes on the History of Socialism," "The History of Socialist Ideas," et cetera



Nikolai Derzhavin, Member of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences—philologist, scholar of the Slav languages and of the history of literature. Since 1898 he has published numerous works on Slav history, including "Notes on the Customs of South-Russian Bulgarians" and "The History of Bulgaria." Derzhavin is a member of the Soviet Scientists' Antifascist Committee



Alexei Tolstoi, Member of the Academy of Sciences and one of the foremost Soviet authors. His works include the long novel "Peter the Great" and a trilogy "The Road to Calvary," for which he received Stalin Prizes. He has also been awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and the Badge of Merit. Tolstoi is a member of the Extraordinary State Committee for the Investigation of Crimes of the German-fascist Invaders

WORK OF LENINGRAD SCIENTISTS DURING BLOCKADE

By Professor L. Veriga

Professor Veriga, Doctor of Physics and Mathematics, is Chairman of the Board of the Leningrad Scientists Center.

The blockade of Leningrad temporarily interrupted the work of the Leningrad Scientists Center. Only in the spring of 1942 were the 367 scientific workers who remained in the city able to renew the activities of the Center, which naturally adapted its efforts to the requirements of the front and of the beleaguered city.

Six sections began work immediately, and by the summer of 1943, 17 sections were functioning. Scientists working in the realm of agriculture took up the problem of rationalizing vegetable gardening. Their conclusions led to two important decisions by the Leningrad Municipal Soviet: on the application of quick crop methods in potato growing, and the adaptation of new bacteriological and nitrogenous fertilizer.

A number of popular booklets on these subjects were published, and several consultation stations for aid to gardeners organized. Lectures advocating the adaptation of new agro-technical methods were held at all State farms in the Leningrad zone, and 600 talks were made to agricultural workers. Winter gardens and experimental hothouses were a part of the program.

The section on mechanical engineering devoted itself to the problem of utilizing damaged and worn machines and equipment. Scientists came to the aid of the Leningrad power stations and assisted in their reconstruction. Much work was done on new and vital problems in the field of industrial chemistry. The entire body of scientific workers discussed an important paper on "Ways and Means of Keeping the City Clean in the Winter of 1942-43." Many suggestions were made which greatly facilitated this task.

A section on inventions examined all proposals for strengthening the city's defense and improving the municipal economy. The food section concentrated on the problem of extending and utilizing fully the food resources of Leningrad and of vitaminizing the rations.

During the first half of 1943, workers in the literary and historical sections held six sessions devoted to the great masters of Russian literature: Lomonosov, Pushkin, Belinsky, Gorky, Derzhavin, Chernishevsky and Lermontov. A voluminous collection of themes relating to the present war was published.

(Continued on page eight)

A Visit to Michurin's Town

By Nikolai Virta

Michurinsk is a small town in the very heart of Russia. Formerly, when it was called Kozlov, it was notable for nothing but the crossing of several railway lines. It was here in this quiet corner, among the limitless fields of black soil, that Ivan Michurin, great transformer of nature, was born, bred and toiled all his life.

By profession he was an ordinary provincial agronomist doing his daily work and in his leisure hours cultivating a garden he had made on an island at the meeting of two streams. This garden has since become a sacred memorial to his name, and is carefully preserved by the Soviet people, for here Michurin made the first experiments that subsequently astounded world scientists, gardeners, naturalists and physicists. Now in the garden beside the little island house where Michurin lived, his pupils care for the valuable new varieties of plants and fruit trees he cultivated. The first works of the great scientist are preserved in this natural museum.

The laboratory and experimental grounds are about three kilometers away. Ivan Potapov, one of the district officials, drove me through the town by car to the Michurin nurseries. Everything in the town reminded one of its close proximity to the front. The Germans were 60 kilometers away. They have bombed the town station, the State farms and the civilian population. Yet despite this and the fact that it was a very trying time for all who were responsible for the town and district, Michurin's wealth of laboratories, nursery gardens and stations remained entirely unharmed.

We passed down a long avenue of limes which leads from the town to the Central Genetical Laboratory, where Michurin's pupils and followers continue their teacher's work. This avenue was planted in his lifetime. Around the laboratory a garden of 500 hectares has been laid out and planted with new varieties of fruit trees and berry bushes.

We were welcomed by Ivan Gorshkov, present director of the Michurin gardens and laboratories, a short, stocky, extremely active man. Gorshkov was the pupil nearest to Michurin, who on his deathbed bequeathed his works to this favorite disciple. We stood talking beside the luxuriant palms surrounding a bust of Michurin on a marble pedestal. Beyond stretched meadows and fields, with a Russian village in the distance. I marveled at the order around me and remarked to Gorshkov that it looked as though the war had not had such a ruinous effect on the place after all.

"No," he relied, "it simply checked the growth and

spread of Michurin's work. As for the rest, we have managed to preserve everything from war."

"You have preserved Michurin's legacy," I said.

"That's a legacy no one can destroy," Gorshkov answered. "Michurin has thousands of followers among the scientists of Russia, America, Australia and other countries, and millions among the collective farmers; this is the memorial that time itself has put up to him. As you may imagine, his pupils won't stop at the stage their teacher reached. Near as we are to the front and hard as the winters have been, we've carried on our work and developed his ideas.

"In 1942, when the front was only an hour's drive from here, we held a conference of Michurin's followers among scientists. At this conference we were able to report that we had grown dozens of new and hardy varieties of fruits and berries that would stand frost. After the most exacting analysis, the conference passed a resolution permitting them to be distributed for cultivation. Thus, Siberia and other parts of the Soviet Union where the climate is most severe received from us new varieties of fruit trees that won't suffer in any frost."

On the vast area of the Central Genetic Laboratory I saw long rows of apple trees which had borne fruit that had something of both south and north in it.

"The war has taken many of our experienced workers," Gorshkov said. "You should have seen the gardens before the war. They were in perfect order then. Still, things are not kept so badly now, either—thanks to the fact that our workers are all enthusiasts. Each of them has his own little garden around his home, where he grows Michurin varieties. We dream of developing gardening on a tremendous scale in this country after the war. The Nazis have destroyed about three-fourths of the gardens in occupied territory, so you can imagine the job that lies before us. We are laying our foundations now for what we will have to do in the near future."

Gorshkov showed me large areas where thousands of young saplings were being cultivated especially for districts recently liberated from the Germans.

"This is only a beginning," he said. "We must give our country millions of trees created, you might say, through Michurin's genius."

We went back to Gorshkov's house, near the Michurin memorial. He treated us to some of the fruits of his labors, and for hours we sat talking about the Michurin gardens.

Children's Holidays Were Happy

By Tatyana Tess

The decorated fir tree in the Hall of Columns, House of the Trade Unions, was considered the most beautiful in the country. It was as tall as a two-story building. Special structures were put up so that toys could be hung in its huge branches. Grandfather Frost, assisted by 400 musicians, jugglers, clowns, games-leaders and dancers, met the Moscow school children at this "Fir Tree Party." The Hall of Columns, where music lovers often listen to symphonies, was completely transformed—it was filled with merry birds and beasts, the beautiful chandeliers were lit with colored globes, and shimmering snow drifted down from the dome. The children followed the games-leaders across the shining parquet floors of the spacious lobby and among the snow-mounds, while the fir tree in the center of the hall slowly revolved in all its radiant beauty.

There were "Fir Tree Parties" in the schools, movie theaters, kindergartens and dramatic theaters, and in open squares. Writers, actors and actresses came to visit the children; Heroes of the Soviet Union told of their military deeds; inventors talked of their latest interesting discoveries.

The children's winter sports season opened during the holidays. Ski runs, hikes, ice-skating, tobogganing and ice-hockey had their enthusiasts. The Children's travel bureau arranged interesting outings for the exploration of native regions. "Pathfinder groups" roamed the forests, stepping lightly to keep

the snow from crunching and the twigs from cracking underfoot. They learned to read, like an interesting book, the footprints of animals in the white snow. They could tell where the fox ran past the rabbit and turned off to the field of winter wheat, where the little ermine dashed to his hole, and where the wood grouse left its tree. All this amusement will be of help in their later life—for it is important that each person know the region where he lives.

Children of men in the services are surrounded with special attention, love and care. During the holidays their schoolmates and teachers and the People's Commissariat of Education gave parties for them. Not a single child is permitted to feel lonely or orphaned; each feels that he or she is part of a large, friendly family.

I went to many "Fir Tree Parties" and visited the families of service men. Everywhere I saw youngsters using their free time to help these families. They chop wood and do chores; they take the smaller children to school and to parties. During these happy holidays our children have shown that they can be solicitous friends and real helpers.

The war winter of 1944 is one of grave and decisive battles. But the Soviet Government and public organizations are doing their utmost to provide children with sufficient opportunities for amusement and recreation, to enable them to forget the hardships and privations of wartime.

Soviet Scientists Commemorate Wright Brothers

The 40th anniversary of the first flight of the Wright brothers and the 35th anniversary of Russian aviation were recently celebrated by a meeting of the Scientific Council of the Ordzhonikidze Aviation Institute in Moscow. One of the speakers remarked that the Russian commander in the war of 1812, Kutuzov, four days before the battle of Borodino discussed the possibility of aerial observation from a balloon of the movements of Napoleon's army.

Russian scientific thought at an early date foresaw and realized the prospects of aviation development. Lenin called the 20th Century the "Century of the Airplane."

LENINGRAD SCIENTISTS

(Continued from page six)

The scientists of Leningrad have renewed their traditional work with the Baltic Fleet, delivering lectures on the most varied topics to the different naval units. During the past six months over a thousand such lectures have been given on board ships and at naval hospitals.

Many scientists who had prepared themes were unable to receive their degrees because of the evacuation of universities and scientific institutes; nevertheless work on themes continued and numerous papers have been completed during the war. Great attention is paid to the everyday needs of scientists, and last April a rest home was opened for them.

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TASS STATEMENT

TASS Communique, January 17.—*In connection with the declaration of the Polish government in London of January 15, TASS has been authorized to state the following:*

1. The declaration of the Polish government, in which the main question of the recognition of the Curzon line as the Soviet-Polish frontier is completely evaded and ignored, cannot be regarded otherwise than as a rejection of the Curzon line.

2. As to the proposal of the Polish government on the opening of official negotiations between it and the Soviet Government, the Soviet Government believes that this proposal is intended to mislead public opin-

ion, since it is not difficult to understand that the Soviet Government cannot enter into official negotiations with a government with which diplomatic relations have been interrupted. Soviet circles remind that diplomatic relations with the Polish government were interrupted through the fault of that government because of its active participation in the hostile anti-Soviet slanderous campaign of the German occupationists in connection with the alleged Katyn murders.

3. In the opinion of Soviet circles, the above circumstances demonstrate once more that the present Polish government does not wish to establish good-neighborly relations with the Soviet Union.



Soviet women guerrillas discuss an assignment carried out against the Germans

Mozyr After the German Occupation

Mozyr is situated on the right bank of the Pripyat River. Before the war it was a beautiful and comfortable town of orchards and gardens. Today it is in ruins; at every step the results of the German occupation are visible. In the main street all buildings have been blown up or burned, and not a whole window pane remains in those houses which escaped complete destruction.

The Kievskaya embankment and the Kimbarovka—the district of the river transport workers—are partly destroyed. The Hitlerites became especially vengeful in their last few days in the city. For some time after they were driven out, the center of Mozyr was enveloped in smoke, as huge buildings continued to burn. The House of Soviets was completely destroyed by fire and the electric power station and waterworks blown up.

Mozyr was formerly the headquarters of General Modl, who set up a regime of penal servitude for its citizens. Russians and Byelorussians were forbidden to enter the town parks, to draw water from wells or to bathe in the river. People were fined and even beaten for talking loudly in the streets.

Modl carried out a purge of the city, during which thousands of people disappeared without leaving a trace. Of the prewar population of 30,000, not more than 2,000 remain. Residents recall the shooting of 3,000 civilians, whose bodies were flung into the river and of many others, singly and in groups. The Hitlerites chose the Jewish Cemetery as their favorite execution ground, although they also carried out mass shootings on the embankment and near the bakery. Behind the gates of the Jewish Cemetery the rattle of machine guns never ceased, say the citizens—huge trucks crowded with doomed people made a well-worn road to it and war prisoners were also dragged there to be shot. The Germans made periodic roundups of young boys and girls.

A few days ago the city celebrated the Red Army's victory which drove the Germans out of Mozyr. The whole population gathered in the streets as on a great holiday. Women and children standing beside houses which had escaped destruction invited the Red Army men passing by to come in, to warm themselves, to rest. They were eager to share their happiness and joy in this restoration to life.

"MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING"

By Mikhail Zoshchenko

The Germans have put out a booklet entitled *Language Guide to Mutual Understanding Without Knowledge of Russian*. On every page are drawings with the captions in German and Russian, and indicating the Russian pronunciation of the words.

Of course, the booklet is concerned most of all with food. Whole pages are devoted to "Thoughts of something to eat." The title pages speak for themselves: "Breakfast," "Dinner," "In the Kitchen," "At the Butcher's," "At the Baker's."

The food question is tackled extremely energetically throughout. "Bring me breakfast, quickly." "Give me two or three boiled eggs." "Five boiled eggs." They were modest at first, as you see, and asked for three eggs. But on reflection they decided they could stow away five.

Appetite is indicated on every page of the book, and quite a refined appetite at that. You won't find any sentences like: "Bring me some coffee," or "Bring me some tea." Such dull fare is beneath German contempt. Instead, the book gives: "Bring me coffee with cream," "Give me strong tea with lemon."

Of pastries the guidebook mentions only one variety: "Cream Puffs." It is astounding what they

want. They demand dumplings with "half-sweet jam" and some sort of "poppy-seed buns."

Nor are they fools about meat. They expect hot frankfurters, corned beef, and even Westphalian ham. Only when it comes to ice cream do they seem slightly at a loss. For some unaccountable reason the only phrase the book suggests is "Give me a bit of ice cream." They must be afraid of catching cold. How otherwise explain this sudden moderation?

The remaining chapters are insignificant, compared to the section on food. One may, however, quote several bluff phrases as typical: "Unlock this closet," and a bit further on: "Show all your belongings willingly." That is their contribution to better mutual understanding.

This guidebook of "Mutual Understanding" does give one an understanding of the desires and motives that move these representatives of a "higher race."

Incidentally, there are no phrases about "surrendering," "guerrillas" or "making off in a westerly direction." Surely it would have been worthwhile to add a topical section along the lines of: "I surrender willingly," and "Where can I surrender?"

THE LENIN LIBRARY

By M. Klevenksy

The Lenin State Library of the USSR has the same significance for the Soviet Union as the Library of the British Museum for England and the Congressional Library for the United States. Simultaneously a national book repository, a central library of the USSR and an auxiliary scientific institution, it actively furthers the development of science, techniques and art and the strengthening of national defense. The Lenin Library places its books at the disposal of the Government, scientific institutions, industrial plants and thousands of readers of the most varied activities—helping them to become oriented in this ocean of knowledge and to utilize it for work in war and in peace.

In these war years, as in peacetime, the reading rooms of the Library are visited by professors, students, engineers, doctors, teachers, generals, officers, Red Army men, directors of scientific institutes, writers—all who seek answers to practical questions, who are increasing their knowledge and mobilizing science for the struggle against the enemy.

In November, 1943 the reading rooms of the Library were visited by 54,530 readers, to whom 255,000 books were issued—almost as many as in the last few pre-war months. In November, 1942, 20,800 people visited the Library, while in November, 1941, when the front was approaching Moscow, this number fell to 2,069. But even in the difficult period when the German invaders were nearing the Capital, the Lenin Library was open to readers. It did not cease for a single day the work it has been carrying on uninterruptedly for 81 years.

The Lenin Library, although occupying one of the first places in the world with respect to the number of books and the scale of its work, is the youngest of all the large national libraries. The Library of the British Museum will mark its 200th anniversary in 1953. The Congressional Library of the United States was founded in 1800. The Public Library of the Moscow and Rumyantsev Museums—now the Lenin Library—was organized in 1862 as the Central Public Library of Moscow. In the pre-revolutionary period the Library augmented its books with Russian publications, which it received gratis in accordance with the law, and at the expense of rather numerous private donations. By 1917 the 100,000 volumes with which the Library started had grown to 1,200,000. At this period it was still far inferior in size to the libraries of London, Washington, Paris, St. Petersburg and many other cities. In the last quarter century, however, it has grown more than five times and now occupies one of the first places in

the world. At the present time it contains some nine million books, pamphlets and periodicals.

The growth of the Library was furthered by the continual solicitude of the Soviet Government, which assisted it with large appropriations and a great number of nationalized books. In 1921 a decree was passed entitling the Library to receive two copies of every new publication. The transfer of the Capital of the USSR to Moscow in 1918 increased the importance of the Library and created prerequisites for making it the central national book repository. From this period Government and scientific organizations began more and more to have recourse to its facilities.

V. I. Lenin, all his life a tireless student, spent many hours in the Library of the Rumyantsev Museum in pre-revolutionary times, and after the October Revolution made use of it as head of the Soviet Government. A note of Lenin's which testifies to the extreme modesty of the great man and to his respect for the national book repository, has been preserved: on one of his requests for several books from the Rumyantsev Museum, Lenin wrote, "If according to the rules of the Reference Library books are not granted for home use, may I not have them for an evening on a night when the Library is closed? I shall return them in the morning."

The number of readers visiting the main hall, and the scientific halls which were opened after the Revolution, grew every year as the role played by the Library in the scientific and cultural life of the country became more significant. It gradually outgrew the limits of the Central Moscow Library and became the national book repository.

On January 29, 1924, the Library was given Lenin's name. On February 6, 1925, a Government decree officially elevated it to the rank of Central Library of the Soviet Union. Since then it has been developing more and more rapidly; its personnel has grown; the number of its readers has increased as well as the number of books taken out and the work of its Information Bureau. The Library is growing with the entire country and with the development of Soviet science—reflecting and furthering their achievements.

In 1917 the Library was visited by 80,470 people; in 1927 by 320,267 and in 1937 by 509,000. A further increase in visitors was hindered by the insufficient capacity of the old reading rooms; despite this, in 1940 the number of visitors increased to 800,000, with four million books issued to readers. In the last prewar years new buildings were constructed along-

side the old ones; they were planned to hold millions of books and serve thousands of readers. The newest of these, the largest library building in Europe, was only partially finished in 1941; the greater part of its wings will be completed after the war.

The Lenin Library has given an excellent example of how to reorganize the work of a large scientific institution in wartime. "Everything for the front! Everything for victory!"—this is a law for all Soviet people, and the Lenin Library has rendered and continues to render great aid to front and rear. The character of its readers and their requests for books have changed during the war; there has been a greater demand for military histories and for technical and periodical literature. The demand for *belles lettres* has noticeably declined. The requests for books and demands for bibliographical information received by the Information Bureau of the Library reflect the interests of its contemporary readers, most of whom are connected in one way or another with the war.

Readers of the Lenin Library are working on such subjects as restoration of railroads, snow-airdromes, prevention and cure of frostbite, raw materials and resources of the Soviet Union, the Mediterranean theater of military operations, economics, oil, the or-

ganization of medical services in the Army and Navy, anti-tank weapons, the fighting alliance of the USSR, Great Britain and the United States, et cetera. The Information and Bibliographical Sections of the Library daily receive scores of requests for material on these and similar subjects.

In 11 months of 1943 the Lenin Library issued 2,211,000 books and periodicals to its readers, answered 23,400 bibliographical inquiries, and prepared and published several reference lists of literature on various subjects. During this period the Library has received 80,000 books and magazines and 27,800 copies of newspapers, and has exchanged books with 20 countries in all parts of the world. Over 100,000 volumes of its duplicate stocks were sent to restore libraries in the liberated districts. These figures give an idea of the scale of work carried on.

By its daily intensive work the Lenin Library, together with other scientific institutions of the Soviet Union, is actively aiding the struggle of all freedom-loving peoples against the enemy, preserving in its books the principles and treasures of human culture, and utilizing them for the scientific and practical work of the Government, the Red Army Command, the Academy of Sciences and other institutions and organizations of the Soviet Union.

Activities of Moscow University

Thousands of young men are at present studying at the Moscow University. Many of these are servicemen, who take correspondence courses and regularly come from the front to attend examinations. During the past year over 100 officers—front-line fighters—prepared for the Bachelor's Degree.

Besides its academic activities, the University also engages in extensive scientific research, pursuing two main aims: all-out assistance to the front and the study of the natural resources of the USSR.

In 1943, professors, post-graduate students and seniors completed over 500 scientific papers of great military and economic importance.

Many important works have come from the Mathematics Institute. The researches of Academician Kolmogorov on the problem of the effectiveness of artillery fire have been especially valuable, and the work of Professor Panchenkov on the production of cold-resistant rubber articles is most interesting. Articles manufactured after his method retain their main characteristics—flexibility and elasticity—even at a temperature of 60 degrees below zero.

Lightning Reconstruction

The first smelting of steel is reported from a Donets works, and the Rostov Coal Combine has completed reconstruction of one of the largest mines in the Donbas, the Nezhdanny.

When the decisive battles for the Donbas began, the mining engineers who left the coalfield in 1941 were in the Urals town of Molotov, preparing blueprints and settling priorities for rebuilding the mines. These engineers returned to the Donbas with the first Red Army units. Work on the mines began the day after the Red Army reached them. One mine, scheduled to begin production again on December 1, was sending coal to the surface on October 7.

Studies have commenced at the Taganrog, Yenakievo and Artemovo technical schools under the People's Commissariat of Ferrous Metallurgy. The Stalino, Dnepropetrovsk, Dnieprodzerzhinsk and Makeyevka technical schools will soon be reopened.

Many evacuated factories are staying in their new homes in the east, where they are well established. But they are taking patronage over the shells of their former homes, and sending back some of their specialists and skilled workers to get production going again as quickly as possible.

SECOND POLISH DIVISION OFF TO THE FRONT

By P. Lidov

Several days ago a second Polish Division named for Dombrowski, and tank, artillery and other units of the Polish Corps of the USSR, set out for the front to fight the German invaders.

The formation of the Division was begun last year. A majority of the soldiers are young men, born in 1924-25, who emigrated from Poland to the Soviet Union. They have been working mostly in Soviet factories. A number of them are Poles who were forced to join the German army, but who surrendered at the first opportunity and have now expressed the wish to fight the Germans in the ranks of their own Polish army.

The division completed its course of training before schedule. The military successes of the First Polish Division named for Kosciuszko and the decorations conferred on its men have been the pride and envy of the different units of the Dombrowski Division, who all wish to get into contact with the enemy as soon as possible. The news of the successful offensive of the Red Army, which is steadily moving westward, has added a fresh stimulus.

The Command of the Polish Corps was pleased to note that the Dombrowski Division is equipped, thanks to the solicitude of the Soviet Government, with first-class weapons of various types in quantities exceeding those of its predecessor, the Kosciuszko Division. Some armaments, for instance the super-heavy guns, modern tanks, self-propelled guns and anti-tank guns, were weapons unknown in the old Polish army. The net weight of the tanks in the units of General Berling is twice as heavy as the total weight of all tanks existing in prewar Poland.

Before leaving for the front, maneuvers were held in winter conditions. The maneuvers were then analyzed in the presence of the Corps Commander, Major General Berling; a representative of the Red Army Command, Lieutenant General Tsigankov, and the Assistant Commander of the Corps, Major General Sverchevski. General Berling expressed his entire satisfaction with the training and fighting qualities of the officers and rank and file.

The two infantry divisions and the tank and artillery formations, as well as the special units, have not embraced all those Poles on Soviet territory who wish to fight for the liberation of their country. So the camp was not long deserted after the Second Division left for the front. The training of fresh units has already begun and before long they will be dispatched to the front.

The first Polish Fighter Aviation Regiment, the "Warsaw," is also completing its course of training.

In addition to its old cadres, the Polish Air Force Unit contains selected Polish youth who love their country and hate the enemy with all their hearts. Podkhoronz Viacheslav Bogusevic is 24. He comes from a family well-known in circles of the Catholic clergy. He was graduated from the Warsaw High School before the war. Bogusevic wanted to enter a pilots' school, but the German invasion prevented it. He was seized in the street and sent for slave labor to a Prussian landowner. From there Bogusevic escaped to the USSR.



Ceremony of commissioning an officer of the Polish Dombrowski Division in the USSR Radiophoto

and there finally got his chance to become a Polish pilot.

The biography of cadet pilot Hugo Obrien de Latsi is even more remarkable. He is only 19. His father was a colonel of the Polish army; his uncle also a colonel. Hugo, too, prepared for a military career. When the German fascists invaded his country, he was a student of the Warsaw Military School.

Hugo began to serve the cause of the liberation of his country at an early age. He joined an underground circle, distributed the newspaper *Volna Polska* and collected arms for an uprising which was being prepared against the Hitlerites. Hugo was caught and thrown into a Gestapo torture chamber. His mother succeeded in getting him out. He escaped to the Soviet Union and joined the regiment bearing the name of his native city. A few more training flights and he will get his certificate.

Hugo Obrien de Latsi informed us that his friends Jusef Dembetski and others who escaped with him

from occupied Poland are now in Iran with the idle army of Anders. Hugo is proud that he is serving in the ranks of the true fighters for the liberation of Poland and he is confident that his duped friend, Jusef Dembetski, and thousands of others envy him.

"I am pretty certain," declared Hugo, "that every one of them would gladly be in my place."

The Warsaw Regiment is equipped with modern high-speed fighter and training planes. Pilots are given an accelerated course of training by a staff of skilled instructors of the Red Army Air Force. Veterans of the Polish Air Force also take part in the instruction of the fliers.

The unity of purpose and solidarity of the officers and soldiers rallying around the Union of Polish Patriots are cause for belief that the Polish units in the USSR will deal quite a few telling blows to the fascist oppressors of their homeland and will enter Poland in the front ranks of the country's liberators.

The Fisherman of Radul

By Major P. Troyanovsky

The village of Radul lies not far from the ancient town of Chernigov, on the left bank of the Dnieper. Here in days gone by stood the fortress which guarded the borders of the principdom of Chernigov from the incursions of enemy aliens from the west. There is nothing left of it now but a deep, broad moat.

From time immemorial the Dnieper has given the people of Radul their living. Always they have been fishermen, lumberjacks, builders of vessels large and small. To this day they are chiefly fishermen and watermen.

It was near Radul that the Red Army made one of its crossings of the Dnieper. Among the heroes of this crossing were an old fisherman, Ivan Karpenko, and his two sons, Fedor and Pavel.

I had no difficulty in finding Ivan Karpenko's cottage. A young woman showed me into a parlor, where I found a broad-shouldered, bearded old man and a young fellow wearing the insignia of a captain.

"Karpenko," boomed the old man, introducing himself and offering me his hand, "and this is my son Pavel. He's home on a visit."

He invited me to dinner—soup and freshly caught fish from the Dnieper. During the meal a soldier entered and handed him a letter. He pulled out his spectacles, tore open the envelope and went to the window. A ray of sunshine lit up the four crosses of St. George on his breast, distinctions for military valor in the old Russian Army. He pushed his glasses up to his forehead, and his wrinkled, bristly

face beamed. "The Colonel has invited me to come and receive a decoration," he explained.

* * *

When the Red Army entered the village, Ivan Karpenko had offered his services to the commander. He promised to have seventy boats ready in three days. He mustered all the fishermen of Radul, and they all worked day and night without pause in the old moat. They kept their promise. The seventy boats were delivered. The old man was thanked. But when the Colonel began to say goodbye, Karpenko protested violently.

"No, Colonel," he said. "Let me stay. You won't find any better boatman!" So he was enrolled as boatman.

That day another regiment entered Radul. In it served the old man's two sons, Captain Pavel Karpenko and Sergeant Major Fedor Karpenko. By coincidence, both were assigned to cross in their father's boat. By sunrise Ivan had made five trips across. Then ferrying operations were suspended until dusk. But at midday there was a disquieting message that Colonel Bakhmatiev's ammunition was running low and mortar bombs were short.

Ivan Karpenko plied his boat back and forth until late evening. He ferried across 100 cases of cartridges, 80 cases of mortar bombs and 50 cases of grenades, and brought 87 wounded men and officers back to Radul.

The Dark Night is Over

By Mother Superior Arkhilia (Elena Savelyeva), of the Nunnery of the Intercession, Kiev

I am 63 years old. I have lived in the Nunnery of the Intercession at Kiev since the age of ten, when I entered it as a novice. We lived in tranquil and prayerful seclusion until the Germans came to Kiev.

The Germans occupied part of our Nunnery and made us do all the hard, dirty work for them. The

were constantly threatening to drive us from the Nunnery.

We prayed fervently that the Red Army might soon return and liberate the unhappy people of Kiev from the German yoke.

When the Red Army in its offensive was nearing Kiev, the Germans proclaimed the center of the city a prohibited zone and ordered all the people to quit their houses. Our Nunnery came within this zone. A representative of the Gestapo came, and seeing that the nuns had remained in their cells, ordered them to leave immediately. Nevertheless we stayed. Where were we aged women to go?

The Gestapo officials scrutinized all the nuns very closely, as well as our priests who were with us. Some of the nuns seemed suspicious to them. They led them aside and then conducted them to the Gestapo. I prayed in vain for the release of these defenseless old women. The Germans were unrelenting.

After they had questioned the nuns, their attention was drawn to our priest, Alexei Glagolev. They thought he looked like a Jew. They began to beat him and then took him to the Gestapo. His wife was taken there, too. Officials beat them and interrogated them, trying to elicit information from them.

Naturally the priest and his wife had nothing to reveal, for they were absolutely innocent. They took from Father Alexei a large gold diamond-studded cross, the gift of his parishioners, and from his wife gold earrings and rings. We afterwards learned that the Germans had pillaged their home and taken everything of value.

Father Alexei and his wife were led off to the railway station with a large party of Soviet citizens. There they were put on a train leaving for Germany. When the train reached Fastov certain religious people helped Father Alexei and his wife to hide from the Hitlerites. Shortly after the Red Army entered Kiev, Father Alexei returned to his native city.

* * *

For 40 days and nights we hid in the vaults of the Cathedral of the Intercession. Besides about 250 nuns, there were 50 Kiev citizens who were also evading deportation to Germany. Here we held divine service and prayed to God to save us from the miserable slavery into which the German invaders had plunged us.

The Germans had evidently forgotten about us. They were in too much of a hurry to take away all the property they had looted. But from the Vedensky Nunnery, which is near the monastery caves, they



View of German destruction of the ancient Kiev-Pechersk Abbey in the city of Kiev

Radiophoto

nuns washed their clothes and cleaned and scrubbed the part of the premises that had been turned into a barracks. Aged women were forced to dig and cultivate a vegetable garden to supply the German soldiers; to peel potatoes and work in the kitchen. The Germans brutally demanded unreserved obedience and

carried off 100 nuns into Germany. That was on October 30, a few days before our liberators of the Red Army entered Kiev.

We are now living a life of peaceful prayer. Nobody molests us any longer or offends our religious susceptibilities. We have fitted up in our Nunnery, at our own expense, a hospital for 80 Red Army men. We ourselves have supplied bedding and bedclothes. We have also set aside part of our food for the wounded. Among us are nuns who have graduated as nurses, and

they take care of the sick. When sufficient food had been brought into Kiev to supply the inhabitants, our hospital began to receive normal supplies from the military authorities.

The dark and unrelieved night of German rule, in which Kiev was plunged for 25 months, is now over. We are able to breathe freely again, and we pray to God to grant an early victory to the Red Army and to help it drive the bloodthirsty enemy from our sacred, long-suffering land.

Our Little Son

By Major V. Popov

He is a short, stocky, curly-haired Jewish lad with large black eyes, far too wise and serious for his years. His name is Isya—short for Isaac—and the peasants of the Ukrainian village of Borodayevka add lovingly: "Our little son."

Two years ago the German tank army of General von Kleist unexpectedly forced the middle reaches of the Dnieper and broke into the city of Kremenchug. There were about 15,000 Jews living in the city at that time. The first few days following the arrival of the Germans were marked by terrible Jewish pogroms. On the third day the commandant of the city issued an order that all Jews, regardless of age or sex, must appear the following morning in the city stockyard. It was explained that they were to be transferred to a special ghetto.

When at the appointed time thousands of people gathered in the large square they were mowed down by machine-gun fire. The people of Kremenchug say that on that day streams of human blood flowed into the Dnieper.

* * *

The Finkelstein family did not report at the stockyard. Abraham Finkelstein, an electrical engineer, and his wife Leah, a doctor, decided to try to escape with their two children, Isya and three-months-old Svetlana. Neighbors helped them make their way out of the city, but they had not gone more than six miles before they were stopped by a German patrol.

Recognizing them for Jews, the soldiers immediately pushed them into the ditch by the roadside and shot them down with tommy guns. Leah and little Svetlana were killed outright. Abraham was seriously wounded, while Isya received three light wounds.

When the engineer regained consciousness he heard the boy moan. Taking him into his arms he made his way with great difficulty off the highroad and proceeded down a bypath. He had not gone far when his strength failed him and he fell to the ground. At that

moment two women, speaking Ukrainian, approached from the direction of the city. The engineer had just enough strength left to call out, but when they reached him he was already dead.

The women—Hannah Markovna Shur and her married daughter, peasants from the village of Borodayevka—were returning from Kremenchug; they understood without words what had taken place, and decided to save the boy. But when they arrived with him at the village the Germans were there. The child's wounds had to be seen to immediately. Hannah Markovna carried him boldly into the house, and began to bathe and dress him in the soldiers' presence. The men were dead drunk, and did not seem to pay any attention.

In the morning, however, they dimly recalled what had taken place the night before and, suspecting the truth, demanded to see the child. Hannah Markovna said he was her grandson—that he had been hurt by a horse and they had taken him to his home in another village. But the Germans were suspicious. The commandant intervened, and a search was instituted. It brought no result, but a few days later proclamations were posted up ordering all Jews to register and all Ukrainians knowing the whereabouts of Jews to report them immediately.

Failure to register was punishable by death; failure to report Jews in hiding—by confiscation of all personal property. Rewards of flour, salt, vodka and money were offered to those who would reveal the hiding-place of Jews.

* * *

The first day the village Soviet resumed its work. Hannah Markovna came with Isya to adopt him legally.

Here they stand before us. The little Jewish lad, with his large sad eyes, clings to the hand of the elderly Ukrainian peasant woman. He calls her mama, and to all the village he is "our little son."

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IN THE NOVGOROD AREA

A PRAVDA correspondent in the Novgorod area writes:

The operation was begun secretly and caught the enemy by surprise. This time the artillery, which usually announces the beginning of an offensive, was silent. At midnight the troops of the Volkhov Front set out on icebound Lake Ilmen from positions skillfully concealed in the forests along the eastern shore of the lake. Before them on the other shore was the

right flank of the enemy's Novgorod group, which covered the Novgorod-Shimsk railway and highway.

By a swift thrust our troops forced the lake and on the first day reached the highway and railway. The most important lifeline of the enemy's Novgorod group was thus cut. Fresh Soviet units poured into the breach, widening and securing it.

Simultaneously with this silent and swift blow south of Novgorod, another one of tremendous force



ON THE KARELIAN FRONT—Dispatch carriers travel swiftly through roadless forests

came down upon the enemy north of the town. This blow was dealt on classical lines. For two hours our artillery thundered, pulverizing the German fortifications on the west bank of the Volkhov River. The earth shook with the bursts of heavy shells. The attack was launched on a wide front. For tens of kilometers, following a creeping barrage, Soviet infantry went into the attack. By a daring thrust it forced the icebound river and broke into the German trenches. Heated fighting broke out all along the line of German defenses on the left bank of the river.

Reinforcements were already speeding to support our gallant troops fighting in the German trenches. Step by step they dislodged the Germans from their well-established positions. By the close of day our troops firmly entrenched themselves on the left bank of the Volkhov, and having pierced the German defenses captured several inhabited localities where the Germans had exceptionally strong positions.

Nature helped the Germans. The narrow defiles between impassable forest thickets, lakes and bogs were covered by the Germans with a thick network of firing posts, trenches and anti-tank and anti-personnel obstacles. Every inch of ground was kept under a flanking enfilade and cross-fire of guns, mortars and machine guns. But the powerful centers of resistance around which the German defense had been built proved useless at the crucial moment. They failed to stem the onslaught of Russian troops, who

by skilful maneuvers effected deep outflanking movements and smashed these resistance centers.

The Germans had prepared the garrison at the Kotovitsy strongpoint for a sustained defense. Huge stocks of provisions and ammunition, 22 block-houses and a line of trenches three and one-half kilometers long seemingly provided the possibility for protracted resistance. However, the deep outflanking of Kotovitsy by our troops made its defense useless. This center of resistance fell and another gap was thus made in the German defenses.

To save the situation the German command transferred its tactical reserves here. Furious fighting broke out with this fresh force. During the day one of our units had to withstand six violent counterattacks of the enemy supported by tanks. Some inhabited localities changed hands repeatedly. In these engagements the Germans exhausted their reserves but failed to gain any success. Deep wedges driven by Soviet troops into the German defenses cut them into isolated parts, thus disrupting communications between enemy strongpoints and units.

The width of the breach was increasing. Within five days of stiff fighting the troops of the Volkhov Front north of Novgorod advanced 30 kilometers and widened the breach to 50 kilometers. Enemy losses in men and materiel were enormous. Our offensive continues.

UNDERGROUND WAR

On one sector of the Soviet front the Germans held a tactically important height which they had spared no pains to fortify, and from which they continually harassed our forward positions. It gave them a good view for several miles into our lines.

Several attempts were made to carry the height by storm, but without success. Then it was decided to drive a tunnel under the hill and blow the whole thing up.

First of all, to prevent the enemy from getting suspicious, the Red Army men deepened the trench from which they proposed to dig the tunnel and roofed it with logs, so that all the work was done under cover. Then they made chambers in which to deposit the earth withdrawn from the tunnel, and dug a staggered shaft some eight yards deep. From this they proceeded to drive the tunnel, which was about a yard and a half high and a yard wide, right under the German strongpoint. At the far end they dug three chambers, one at the head and one branching off to each side.

The work was pushed day and night without pause. At one point the men ran into a vein of quicksand which rapidly began to fill the tunnel. It was im-

possible to clear it with spade and bucket, and in the end the gallery had to be raised a yard higher and a channel dug to run off the quicksand.

For the last few days the men suffered severely from lack of air. When the tunnel reached the German strongpoint it was necessary to exercise extreme caution and establish listening posts. Even at that depth the Germans could be heard talking, moving about and working on the surface. The men were allowed to remove earth only by scraping with their spades, and all orders were passed from mouth to mouth in whispers. Movement along the tunnel was forbidden, and the earth was passed in sacks from hand to hand by a line of men sitting along the wall.

At six o'clock one morning the charge was fired. An immense pillar of earth and smoke rose to the sky over the enemy strongpoint. It was a full 15 minutes before the Germans recovered from the shock sufficiently to fire. Taking advantage of this, the Red Army men rushed the position and dislodged the Germans from the height.

The explosion destroyed a ferro-concrete observation post, five dugouts, three pillboxes, two mortar emplacements and an ammunition dump. Over a hundred Germans were killed.

Byelorussian Guerrilla Brigade Merges With Red Army

On January 4, Victor Liventsov, commander of a Byelorussian guerrilla brigade which operated for two-and-one-half years behind the German lines, transferred his last detachment of 1,300 men to the Red Army. Only then did he learn that during the last two years he had been twice decorated with the Order of the Red Banner and that on January 1, 1944 he title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred upon him.

Liventsov is only 25, but he holds the rank of colonel. Before the war he was a village school teacher in Byelorussia, with no thought of military fame. When the Germans occupied his native town, he at once began to organize resistance. His first guerrilla group numbered seven. He was quickly joined by others—engineers, teachers, lawyers, all who were eager to fight the Germans—and soon his detachment grew to 300 members.

During the operations of this detachment, which later swelled to a brigade, the guerrillas had practically no casualties. They killed several thousand Hitlerite officers and men and destroyed a huge quantity of equipment. It is enough to mention that some of the members have 20 to 30 wrecked trains to their credit.

The success of Liventsov's men was due to the suddenness and daring with which they executed the most hazardous operations. On one occasion a scout reported that 11 German tanks had arrived at one town. The guerrillas had no explosives at the moment, but they were nonetheless determined to destroy the tanks.

As soon as darkness fell, a group led by Liventsov broke into an enemy airdrome and engaged the guards. Under cover of the fighting other members of the detachment stole a heavy aviation bomb from the air base. Later invisible hands brought the bomb to the town, placed it among the group of tanks and lighted the fuse. The whole area was aroused by the explosion, which left the German tanks a heap of twisted metal.

On the day following this operation the German authorities announced a reward of 100,000 marks to anyone who would bring them the guerrilla commander alive. The announcement had unexpected results. Eight men visited the office of the German commandant, and without introduction the youngest said quietly:

"Please give me the 100,000 marks. I am the guerrilla commander Victor Liventsov."

Before the Germans recovered from their surprise

they were shot down, the commandant's office smashed, and the guerrillas and their leader had disappeared.

Liventsov's last operation was carried out on New Year's Eve. He learned that at midnight a German train would pass, en route from Minsk to the front. The Germans had stationed strong patrols along the railway line. The guerrillas first smashed two pill-boxes and thus cleared the line for about a kilometer and a half. Then the rumble of the approaching train was heard; there was no time left to plant a mine under the track. Three of the men lay down near the embankment and when the train had almost reached



German war prisoners are marched past the monument erected on the Sozh River in 1708 in honor of the victory of Russian arms over the forces of King Charles XII of Sweden

them, placed three mines on the rails. The locomotive jumped the rails and turned over.

Two hundred guerrilla tommy gunners, with Liventsov at their head, rushed out of ambush in the forest and completed the rout of the Germans. This happened exactly at midnight on December 31, 1943. The guerrillas killed 345 newly-graduated officers en route to the front lines.

A few days later Liventsov's guerrilla brigade was made a part of the Red Army. Colonel Liventsov is now visiting Moscow.

Music "Exhibit"

The Union of Soviet Composers has organized a series of concerts called "An Exhibit of Soviet Music," at the State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. Their purpose is to give the public a chance to hear the most recent works of Soviet composers.

SOVIET SPORTS REVIEW

By Leonid Hecker

The ice-boat sports season is in full swing in Moscow. Equipped with sails and long, thin skates, these boats skim across the ice at 80 kilometers per hour.

* * *

A contest for the Moscow boxing title was held recently, with Nikolai Korolyov, the Estonian Martin Linnamagi, and Ivan Ganykin leading. All matches were of four three-minute rounds. It was the fourth meeting for Korolyov and Linnamagi, and again the experienced and well-trained Estonian was unable to hold out against the powerful blows of the "human cannon," as Korolyov is called by boxing fans. Ganykin was also defeated by Korolyov, who won the Moscow title.

In Sukhumi, on the Black Sea Coast, 50 boxers recently competed for the Georgian title, which went to heavyweight Sandro Navasardov, who has participated in many All-Union championship bouts.

* * *

An aquatic sports festival was recently held by Red Navy men in the largest swimming pool in Moscow. Leading swimmers of the country took part in races held after a parade of the contestants. The 100-meter free style event for men was won by the USSR record holder, V. Ushakov, in one minute, 1.7 seconds. Leonid Meshkov, world record holder, clocked one minute, 11.6 seconds to win the 100-meter breast-stroke event. Maria Sokolova, Soviet record holder, topped all competitors in the 100-meter breast-stroke event for women, finishing in one minute 27.7 seconds.

The militarized events were keenly contested. Swimmers were required to cover 50 meters in army

uniforms and strip off their clothes in the water. Other contestants dived to the bottom of the pool—4.5 meters—brought five rifles to the surface at one time and swam with them to "shore." Still others took part in an obstacle relay race, slipping through special rigs into the water and diving twice under a net.

* * *

Skiing and speed-skating contests were held in many parts of the USSR in the latter half of December, 1943 and the beginning of January. In Sverdlovsk, in the Urals, where excellent winter weather prevails, leading Soviet skiers, including several champions, participated in the races.

In the five-kilometer event L. Gornostayeva, representative of the sports organization of the Tractor Workers Union, finished first in a field of 53 women, with a winning time of 26 minutes, 15 seconds. Vello Kaaristo, Ewal Sorack and Paul Phla, Estonian skiers studying in the Regional School of Physical Culture and Sports, led in the 10-kilometer race for men. Kaaristo, former champion skier of the Baltic countries, took first place, covering the distance in 41 minutes, three seconds.

On New Year's Eve, 57 skiing teams of the Sverdlovsk Region sped along snow-covered highways, across frozen rivers and through thick woods, converging upon the city of Sverdlovsk. The skiers carried reports from their respective towns and villages of the achievements of Urals workers in the war effort. Skiers of one factory arrived in the city behind two tanks built by young enthusiasts after regular working hours.

VITAMINS FOR THE RED ARMY

Reports have recently been made to the Red Army Medical Council on measures for supplying the Red Army with adequate quantities of vitamins under all conditions. Widely used as vitamin sources are wild plants such as sorrel and nettles, pine and fir needles, birch and lime leaves, and the leaves of beets, radishes, carrots and turnips.

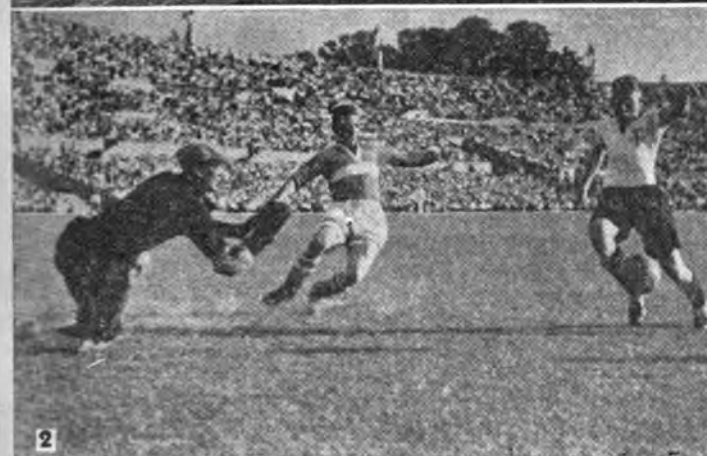
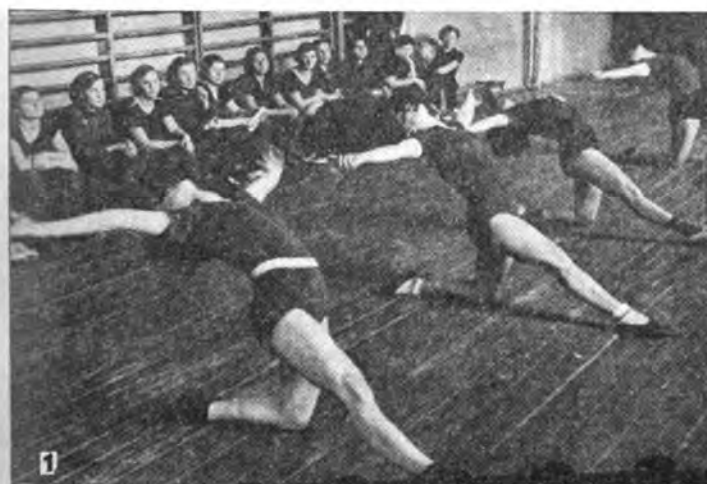
Troops of the Byelorussian Front gathered 1,200 tons of wild plants last year from which vitamins were extracted. On the Karelian, Volkhov and Leningrad Fronts, pine and fir needles are popular sources of Vitamin C. For securing vitamin A on the Volkhov Front, wide use is made of certain nettles whose

vitamin content is twice that of carrots.

To increase the B-1 vitamin content of food, field bakers have special installations for the fermentation of yeast, which is given to the men in the form of a refreshing drink. A special portable apparatus has been designed which makes possible determination of the vitamin content of food within two or three minutes under field conditions.

Kazakh Art Exhibit

Kazakh artists in Alma-Ata, Central Asia, have organized an exhibit of 900 war paintings.



Youth of the USSR Are Sports Enthusiasts

(1) A girls' calisthenics class in one of the Dynamo Sports Clubs; (2) Moscow Dynamo and Torpedo teams in a hot contest for the soccer title; (3) Version of the pyramid by students of the Georgian School of Physical Culture; (4) A competitor for the Moscow gymnastics championship; (5) Future contestants for boxing honors; (6) A critical moment in a basketball game between the Dynamo and Locomotive Athletic Clubs



The Sixth Blast Furnace of Magnitogorsk

This immense new blast furnace, the greatest in Europe, is called the Youth Blast Furnace. Most of the builders were lads of 17 and 18, and young folk will operate it. In Moscow, Sverdlovsk, Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk, and other manufacturing centers, "control groups" of young factory and railway workers were organized to insure completion and dispatch on time of components and materials.

The completion of the sixth blast furnace marks the fulfilment of the Magnitogorsk iron and steel workers' projects as envisaged in the third Five-Year Plan. Magnitogorsk embodies all that is most up-to-date in metallurgy technique. It is an important link in the Urals-Kuznetsk combine. Stalin's idea of combining Urals iron ore with Kuznetsk coal has proved its soundness. Even before the war Magnitogorsk pig iron was the cheapest in the Soviet Union.

But Magnitogorsk is not yet complete. A seventh blast furnace is already under construction, and an eighth is being planned.

IZVESTIA recently wrote:

The fires of a sixth blast furnace, the largest in the USSR, are burning at Magnitogorsk. On December 25 the first pig iron was turned out. It is the second blast furnace to be put into operation by the workers of Magnitostroi during the great Patriotic War. The workers of Magnitogorsk, reporting to Stalin, relate how it was built entirely of Soviet materials and equipment, a considerable part of which was prepared in the workshops of the Magnitogorsk metallurgical combine and on the building site.

The whole country shares their joy, for Magnitogorsk symbolizes the expanding industrial power of the Soviet Union.

The fifth blast furnace, which came into operation on December 5, 1942, was built in less than a year. The sixth blast furnace has been built in record time—less than seven months.

Each new blast furnace is a landmark not only in the development of the iron and steel industry but of the whole industry of the USSR. The fact that in wartime Soviet metal workers have been able, in so short a time, to build a first-class blast furnace is evidence that our people are full of inexhaustible strength and energy, of a creative inspiration and enthusiasm that can overcome all difficulties.

In spite of the war, we are building better and faster from month to month. Cadres of qualified workers and commanders of production are emerging as organizers and administrators of building jobs. Old, experienced workers of Magnitka helped to build the sixth blast furnace at Magnitogorsk. It was they who

built its workshops. It was they who from year to year increased the productivity of the giant of our metallurgy. These people grew up with Magnitka.

About two-thirds of the 5,000 builders and installation workers were young people, tireless Soviet youth.

The building of the new blast furnace was even better organized, was carried out with even more modern technical methods, than the construction of its predecessor, the fifth blast furnace. All the blast furnace equipment was made by Soviet enterprises from Soviet materials—evidence that our growing and well-organized war economy has colossal strength.

In the most difficult circumstances, when the metal-producing South was temporarily in the hands of the German invaders, Soviet metal workers were able to fulfil all the needs of the Red Army with honor—the Red Army which in stubborn battles and as a result of a brilliant offensive restored the metal-producing South to the Soviet Union. In the Donbas and along the Dnieper a great work of restoration is in progress. The Southern plants of the USSR are even now producing thousands of tons of metal, and will give more each day.

Having got their sixth blast furnace into operation, the Magnitogorsk workers have started on new jobs. Magnitogorsk is growing, and will continue to grow. We are expanding our industrial capacity, so as to use the additional output against the enemy today. And tomorrow—when the enemy is smashed—we shall direct the whole gigantic stream of industrial production towards a new economic and cultural blossoming of our country.

The Speaking Walls of Kiev

The big building at No. 24 Lvov Street, in Kiev, now houses the Regional Military Commissariat, where young people report before they go to the front. During the German occupation people avoided passing this building by making a long detour. It was surrounded by barbed wire, and tens of thousands of boys and girls from all over the Ukraine passed through this German sorting house for human beings. They were then loaded on trains and taken to Germany.

The stone walls, like the window frames and doors, are covered with thousands of names. Those who wrote them often added words of sorrow and hatred. "Farewell, dear Ukraine, land of my happiness." "Farewell, beloved Ukraine. You will be free, but we are going to Germany. The Germans are driving away the flower of the Ukraine." "If you can—escape. If not—goodbye."

"Polar Sugar" from Lichens

Hundreds of varieties of lichen grow in the vast barren spaces of the Soviet north. Indeed, one-fifth of the territory of the northern regions of the USSR is covered with these stunted perennials. It has been estimated that anything up to three tons of dried lichens can be gathered from one acre.

Until now reindeer have been the main consumers of these lichens. Attempts have been made to use these growths for human consumption. In 1802, for instance, the Russian chemist Fedor Brandenburg, of Mogilev, wrote a paper "On the Utilization of Iceland Moss for Food." Brandenburg suggested recipes for bread, porridge and jellies made of lichen.

But later all these recipes turned out to be worthless. Physiologists proved that "lichenin," the main component of lichens, could not be absorbed by the human organism, and gave only the semblance of food. The people of the north used lichens in the years of famine to supplement their poor rations, but it was mere self-deception. The human system gained nothing from this supplement. The stomach of a reindeer can absorb only 22 per cent of the lichenin intake.

But in spite of this, lichens have their uses. At the latest plenary session of the scientific control of the Institute of Bio-chemistry, attached to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Andrei Kursanov reported on his recently completed investigation of the possibility of using lichens in the food industry. The members examined with interest the snow-white tablets of "polar sugar" produced from lichens.

After telling the story of former attempts to use

polar lichens, Professor Kursanov described how lichens had been subjected to the action of a sulphuric acid solution at the Polar Experimental Station of the Academy of Sciences, in the Polar Botanical Gardens at Kirovsk in the Kola Peninsula.

"By the application of heat to lichens in sulphuric acid solution they were transferred into sweet glucose molasses fit for consumption," he said. This molasses contained 100 per cent of the original material. One kilogram of lichens could be worked up into one kilogram of molasses. A few days after the molasses was produced it was subjected to a process of centrifugalization, which transformed it into crystalline glucose.

The Apatite combine, in the town of Kirovsk, has already set up a small but well-equipped plant for the treatment of lichens. This is the first factory of its kind in the world, and it turns out 100 kilograms of molasses a day—just enough to supply its own workers.

With the assistance of Nikolai Dyachkov, scientific worker at the Polar Botanical Gardens in Kirovsk, Professor Kursanov has worked out plans for the establishment of small factories for the treatment of lichens. The People's Commissariat of the Food Industry of the Russian SFSR plans to have a chain of small factories in a number of towns in the Soviet north, where the lichens are to be found in abundance.

The people of the Polar regions will have their "Polar sugar," which differs very little from real sugar.

AID TO WAR INVALIDS

The Soviet Union shows the greatest solicitude for war invalids, granting them State aid and providing them with work. Thus the right of every citizen of the USSR to social insurance is realized.

When treatment at a hospital is completed, the invalid is placed on the files of his district branch for social insurance, which means that thereafter he is cared for entirely by the State. There are special stores catering to war invalids and special workshops for them; they receive pensions and living quarters. The State has organized a wide network of homes for permanently maimed fighters, where they receive the best of care. Special music schools have been opened for soldiers who have become blind as a result of injuries received in battle. Thousands of invalids are acquiring new trades, such as watchmaking, beet cultivation and fruit and vegetable raising.

Sergeant Ivan Pitertsov, who before the war was a tailor, lost his hand in battle. Pitertsov has now finished a course in bookkeeping and has been employed by the People's Commissariat of the Coal Industry. Peter Trushin was a fitter before the war. The serious injuries he received in battle near Stalin-grad resulted in the amputation of his leg. He has become a skilled watchmaker, earning more than he did before the war. Former laborer Peter Alexandrov lost an arm and leg in the war. When he left the hospital, he went to work as labor inspector at the Krasnaya Rosa factory.

Many blind veterans are studying at one of the Moscow music schools. Former students who are now war invalids have resumed their studies in various institutes. The Soviet people render every possible aid to those incapacitated by war.

Notes from Front and Rear

There are over 100,000 Byelorussian guerrillas active in several hundred detachments. From the beginning of the war until December 1, 1943, they have killed 282,000 officers and men and 40 officials of the German army and wounded 52,000. They have derailed 5,758 troop trains, destroying 3,943 locomotives and 40,284 coaches and wagons. They have blown up 556 railways and 3,695 road bridges, and destroyed 25 planes, 812 tanks and 10,633 trucks.

The highest award, Hero of the Soviet Union, has been conferred upon 19 Byelorussian guerrillas. Among the generals of the Red Army are over 100 Byelorussians.



By decision of the Committee on Art Affairs, a State Philharmonic Orchestra of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is to be organized. It will incorporate the Byelorussian song and dance ensemble, the orchestra under the direction of Rozner, and other musical groups.



The good soldier Schweik, hero of the Czech writer Jaroslav Hasek's novel, has become the hero of several Soviet works during the war. Recently there appeared a novel by Slobodsky, describing Schweik's adventures on the Soviet front.

On the Soviet screen *The Good Soldier Schweik* first appeared as a short film. Now Soviet cinemas are showing *Schweik's New Adventures*, produced by the Stalin Prize Winner Sergei Yutkevich, author of the popular films *Man With a Rifle* and *Donbas Miners*. The film describes the adventures of Hasek's hero in the present war.



Prospecting for new raw material and fuel resources keeps pace with the building of new industrial installations in the eastern areas of the USSR. In Buguruslan, Bashkiria, prospecting parties have discovered three new oil and gas deposits of considerable industrial importance this year. One of these provides several hundred thousand cubic yards of gas daily. The third open-hearth furnace to be built since the outbreak of war at the Revda metallurgical works in the Urals began to function on October 21. On the same day a new rolling mill was put into operation at the Stalin metallurgical works in Kuznetsk.

One of the epics of the present Soviet offensive is the story of the 12 signalers who, while laying a cable to a new observation post, were attacked by 300 Germans, six tanks and two self-propelled Ferdinand guns. They dug in with a Soviet gun crew. Four of the tanks were disabled, one by a signaler who threw himself beneath it with a bundle of grenades. A German Ferdinand destroyed the Soviet gun. By this time only three of the signalers remained alive. They shared their grenades and were preparing to attack the remaining tanks when Soviet reinforcements appeared. The 12 signalers and the gun crew killed 200 Germans and destroyed four tanks.



Three million collective farmers are taking short courses in scientific agriculture this winter—a million more than last year. Brigades of field and livestock workers will learn the latest agro-technical methods for obtaining large yields and for livestock breeding. The courses will also deal with the organization and methods of payment of earnings on collective farms. Field brigade leaders, collective farm managers and veterinary workers will attend short-term courses at the big collective farms and at scientific research establishments. Moscow's agricultural colleges are providing "refresher courses" for farmers in the liberated areas.



A Leningrad printing house has just completed an edition of STALIN'S SPEECHES ON THE PATRIOTIC WAR in a special pocket size for guerrillas. Though it is only two by three inches, the book is easy to read because of its specially clear type. A letter was recently received by the printers from guerrillas of the Leningrad Region thanking them for their work.



During the Patriotic War the railroad builders of Soviet Central Asia have achieved notable successes. Within two and one-half years, they have laid 324 kilometers of track, built 437 auxiliary structures and 20,000 square meters of production floor space. They have also given great assistance to large construction projects in Soviet Central Asia, laying 33 kilometers of railway lines for the Farkhad hydro-electric station, and a city spur track in Samarkand. They have also participated in the construction of the Salars State hydro-electric station.

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Leningrad Attacks!

By N. Voronov

The air shook to the mighty roar of guns. The ground shuddered beneath the titanic breath of Soviet artillery. Following a creeping wall of fire, infantry and tanks went into the attack. Men and commanders swept forward, spurred by a mighty, irresistible surge. The troops of the Leningrad Front had passed to the offensive!

In the first few hours of their advance they encountered fierce enemy resistance. In the two and one-half years the Germans lay outside the walls of Lenin's city they built several lines of defense comprising large numbers of resistance centers densely saturated with fire weapons. The Germans drew from

all the resources of modern engineering to render their defenses invulnerable. Yet they were unable to withstand the assault of the Soviet troops.

A great hour had come—the hour of reckoning for the bloody crimes perpetrated by the Germans on Leningrad soil, for the city's sufferings, for the blood of women and children shed in its streets. This was the hour for which the men of the Leningrad Front and the Red Banner Baltic Fleet, the workers, scientists, housewives and children of Leningrad and of the whole Soviet country, had waited and yearned.

At dawn the mighty roar of hundreds of guns shat-



A Leningrad fighter pilot, Captain Mochalov, returns from a sortie in which he shot down his 13th fascist plane

Radlphoto

tered the silence of the frosty January morning. The first salvo was followed by a second, third, fifth . . . twentieth. The artillery offensive began south of Oranienbaum and in the Pulkovo area. Leningrad raised its voice of wrath and vengeance in a terrific hurricane of sound. The batteries of the Army, the Fleet and the Forts of Kronstadt, with broadsides from naval vessels, joined in raining death and destruction upon the enemy. Thousands of shells crashed down upon the German positions, shattering and splintering pillboxes, blindages, trenches, guns and tanks.

The crews of the heavy guns worked with inspired fury. They were wreaking vengeance. Every now and again came the command: "For Leningrad—fire!"

"For the blood and tears of Leningrad citizens—fire!" There was no shelter for the Germans from the unerring aim of the Soviet artillerymen.

The hour of attack had come. Bending low, with fingers crooked around the triggers of their tommy guns and grenades ready for action, Soviet infantrymen hurled themselves upon the first row of enemy trenches. The bark of tommy guns mingled with the blasts of grenades and the triumphant "Hurrahs!" By noon of the first day of battle three rows of trenches and the pillboxes connecting them were securely in the hands of the Soviet infantry. This meant that the first line of the German defense had been broken. Ahead lay a second and more formidable one. But it was already clear that the German defenses were unable to withstand the assault on the Leningrad Front. A beginning had been made.

Men and commanders realized this and redoubled their efforts. The German resistance grew even more stubborn and frenzied when Soviet troops invaded the first inhabited points. One of these centers of resistance was Krasnoye Selo. Before reaching this town and capturing it, Soviet troops had to reduce a zone of heavily fortified pillboxes echeloned in considerable depth. When the Guardsmen broke through the first line of trenches they found their road barred by a large number of bunkers and intricate fortifications built up with barbed wire, coiled wire and sharp-pointed stakes. This was the German stronghold of Bolshevitov. It was built by German army engineers in the past two years and considered impregnable.

But once again the Germans were mistaken. On the first day of the attack, by skilful maneuvers and outflanking movements the Guardsmen reduced this stronghold barring the road to Krasnoye Selo.

Another German stronghold near Krasnoye Selo was known as Crow's Hill. It dominated the country-

side for many miles. From Crow's Hill the Germans maintained constant observation of Soviet positions and the outskirts of Leningrad. Here at the foot of the hill stood the 406-mm. fortress guns from which the Germans systematically and barbarously bombarded Leningrad. Crow's Hill covered Krasnoye Selo from the south and had to be smashed before the town could be taken. The battle lasted two days. On the morning of January 19 the German garrison was surrounded on all sides and completely annihilated.

Soviet troops were now within close reach of Krasnoye Selo, and the Germans, sensing the imminence of defeat, blew up all bridges leading to the dam on the Duderhof River and inundated the approaches to the town. This did not halt the Soviet troops. The first battalions of Guardsmen forced their way into the suburbs, where a fierce battle ensued. By midday on January 19 Krasnoye Selo was carried by storm.

We are driving through territory liberated from the Germans. On the road and along both sides stand shattered and burned out panzers, Ferdinand guns and motor vehicles. There lies Krasnoye Selo. It is a dead town—without a single inhabitant or a single building. Such buildings as still stand had been turned into a strongly-fortified line of positions. Of the once beautiful railway station only charred and battered walls remain.

At midday the rattling of machine guns and tommy guns and the bursting of mortar bombs and shells could still be heard distinctly. But now, toward evening, the sounds of battle have receded into the distance, where the men of the Leningrad Front are driving the Germans from our native soil.

One Tommy Gunner – 50 Germans

In an engagement in Byelorussia, Nikolai Episov, a young tommy gunner, fought single-handed against 50 Hitlerites and a tank. His action enabled his unit, part of a famous Stalingrad Guards Division, to capture an inhabited locality without excessive casualties.

Nineteen-year-old Nikolai made his way unobserved to the outskirts of the village and hid in the attic of a two-storey house, from which he opened fire on the Germans with his tommy gun. The Hitlerites made desperate efforts to capture or kill him, but invariably fell under his fire. Finally they succeeded in flinging an incendiary bomb onto the roof of the house, setting it on fire, and at the same moment a German tank approached and sent two shells into the house, partially wrecking it. But young Nikolai kept cool, hurled two grenades at the tank and disabled it. In the confusion, the Guardsmen broke into the village. They found Nikolai at the window of the half-wrecked house with an empty magazine and his last grenade. Fifty dead Germans lay about the house. Nikolai has been decorated with the Order of the Red Star.

ALL HONOR TO THE HERO CITY

By Vsevolod Vishnevsky

The defense line which the Germans called a "steel ring," built to last and strengthened continually for 28 months, has been broken. Leningrad's valiant divisions and aircraft have inflicted still another defeat on the German armies.

What strength of spirit, what endurance this city must have! Between July and August, 1941, Leningrad contrived to harass and decimate the German and Finnish forces on its farther approaches, at Pliussa, Luga and on the Karelian Isthmus. In September, 1941 the city checked the furious storm of Germans and Finns. And it must be remembered that in those critical days the enemy outnumbered the Russians sixfold in all the most important directions.

The Spirit of Lenin

But Leningrad strained every nerve, remembering the example of fearlessness set by Lenin. The city struggled under the banner of Lenin and Stalin; millions of civilians and soldiers were moved by the spirit of Lenin to courageous exploits in the field. Forty-four enemy divisions seeking to strangle Leningrad, to burst into its precincts, to trample the city and slaughter its population, were checked, bled white and flung into the swamps. Then the enemy sought to undermine the city by a merciless hunger blockade. But the battle against starvation was won by Leningrad.

In the months of November and December, 1941, another method was tried: Leningrad was encircled in a second, more distant blockade that extended beyond Lake Ladoga to the Svir River.

In the battle with hunger the victory was Leningrad's. And still the enemy would not let go. In 1942 the Germans flung onto this front the picked storm troops of Field Marshal von Mannstein, who had taken the Crimea. Yielding neither to fear nor weariness, for they had Lenin's and Stalin's example before them, Leningrad met its foes with a swift forestalling flank attack on the Neva and at Sinyavino.

The Germans released their Junkers as though from an assembly line, raising acres of the Neva's banks into the air. Rusty-colored smoke and clouds of sand fairly blinded the Soviet troops. But Leningrad held out, while von Mannstein's divisions floundered in the peat bogs, lost vast numbers of soldiers and officers and were unable to advance. Leningrad won this fourth battle. Leningrad stood fast, with

the golden spire of the Admiralty glittering in the blue sky.

The fifth blow was struck by the Germans in October, 1942. With the Finns they prepared secretly in northern Lake Ladoga a powerful flotilla of self-propelling troop-carrier barges, built for the invasion of England. This flotilla attacked Sukho Island in Lake Ladoga, center of the Leningrad supply line. The Baltic seamen and pilots repulsed this blow and the German flotilla was caught in a pincer movement of the Soviet Ladoga flotilla, while the Baltic Ilyushin attack planes and fighters pounded them. The German retreat turned into a disordered flight on the blazing barges, and the Germans lost over 50 per cent of their flotilla. Thus was the fifth battle won by Leningrad.

The sixth was fought in January, 1943, when Soviet troops made a well-prepared thrust in the Schluesselburg district. Here the Germans' steel ring was broken after a seven-day struggle in the forests and peat bogs, outside settlements that have numbers instead of names, at Maryino, Pilni-Melnitsa and the No. 8 power station. The impetus of Soviet troops, Guardsmen, riflemen from Hango, Baltic ski-runners, sappers, pilots and artillerymen, was irresistible. It swept everything before it.

Vengeance for Crimea and Sevastopol

Over the Neva's icy reaches a prodigious Russian cheer rang out and pealed into song. This was the way the men of Leningrad attacked the positions of the 170th Prussian Division, which like other German divisions was at last paid in full for the Crimea and Sevastopol, for their attempt on Leningrad. The blockade of Leningrad was broken.

It is a year now since the sixth battle was won. In the summer of 1943 the Germans were bitterly determined to take their revenge. Once more they struck at Lake Ladoga, to close the ring of the blockade. But they were crushed to the ground and beaten. Leningrad's seventh battle was won.

January is here again and Leningrad has struck another blow of tremendous force. Through wide breaches our units are forcing their way. In this eighth battle the victory is Leningrad's. All honor to the splendid warrior city, fighting stubbornly and proudly, maintaining Lenin's tradition with love and loyalty, carrying it high like a banner through the strife.

RAMZIN STEAM GENERATORS

By V. Dudavsky

The building of new power stations in the USSR has not been interrupted by the war. Instead, it has been intensified, particularly in the Urals, where there is an immense demand for extra power to serve the hundreds of large industrial plants evacuated to this area from the war zones, as well as the many new factories that have sprung up in the Urals since the outbreak of war. Among them are iron and steel works, engineering works, munition factories, aluminium plants, coal and ore mines.

The aggregate capacity of the Urals power stations has increased by over 80 per cent in two years of war. The aggregate capacity of the new stations constructed since 1942 was seven times that of stations dating from 1940, and three and a half times as large as those dating from 1941.

Powerful steam boilers are required for these new stations. The Ramzin steam generator or direct-flow boiler has been introduced since the outbreak of war. It is the product of years of work on entirely new principles by a number of Soviet scientists and engineers working under Professor Ramzin's direction. It might be called "the boilerless boiler," for the usual cylindrical steel drum is dispensed with. This simplifies construction and saves a great deal of metal. Ramzin boilers require only half the amount of metal used in an ordinary boiler of similar capacity. They are now manufactured on a considerable scale.

Ramzin boilers can be built to a capacity up to 200 tons of steam per hour in pressure of 140 atmospheres. Some of the steam generators built under Professor Ramzin's direction are among the most powerful in the world. Numerous circulation tubes as well as the

drums are dispensed with in the Ramzin generator, the principal part being a coil in which the steam is formed. The result is that it can be assembled more quickly than other types—an important consideration in wartime, when the need for new power stations is so urgent.

Moreover, Ramzin or direct-flow boilers are much safer and easier to operate than ordinary boilers. Their construction is so simple that they can be built at the place of installation, that is, at the power station building site. This was done at Krasnogorsk power station, one of the largest in the USSR.

An ordinary steam boiler with a capacity of 160 to 200 tons of steam per hour usually took five or six months to erect. A Ramzin direct-flow boiler of this capacity was erected at the Chelyabinsk heat and power station in 76 days.

The stern Urals winter does not hold up building progress. Steam generators are assembled and installed at any time of the year. Autogenic and electric welding, which plays so important a part in boiler installation and which was considered impossible at a temperature lower than 10 degrees below zero Centigrade, is now done at temperatures of 20 to 30 degrees below zero, at which temperatures the boiler is also bricked in.

Factories for the manufacture of Ramzin steam generators are being built close to the steel plants.

The Ramzin direct-flow boiler is destined to play a vital part in the reconstruction of power stations destroyed by the Germans in occupied areas. Professor Ramzin has been awarded a Stalin Prize.

Soviet Munitions Workers Honored

By D. Ustinov

Hero of Socialist Labor and People's Commissar of Munitions of the USSR

For exemplary fulfillment of Government tasks in the production of munitions, a large group of workers, engineers, technicians and other employees of a number of factories have been awarded orders and medals of the Soviet Union. The munitions industry of the USSR successfully fulfilled its 1943 plan and provided the valiant Red Army with much more munitions than it had in 1942.

Last year was notable for the creation of more perfect models of artillery, arms, tanks, self-propelling artillery, heavy anti-aircraft guns, anti-tank guns, infantry and air armaments, and new designs for military instruments. Munitions workers considerably raised the firing efficiency of Red Army artillery equipment, which possesses high fighting qualities.

This has been thoroughly verified by Red Army artillerymen.

For intensification of munitions production under difficult conditions of wartime, our industry is indebted to Lavrenti Beria, member of the State Committee of Defense, under whose direction complex tasks are being solved for further increasing the fighting technique of our Red Army and Navy.

All the workers of the munitions industry are striving to create new models of armaments, to further improve existing ones, to raise labor productivity, to utilize reserves in factories to a greater extent and to struggle for high quality and economy in production.



Children of Leningrad stage an amateur theatrical performance in costumes of various Soviet nationalities

60 SOVIET PEOPLES DEVELOP THEIR LANGUAGES

In the USSR there are about 60 peoples and national groups all speaking their own languages, from the until recently unwritten languages of the backward tribes to the languages of peoples with important and ancient cultures, languages which date back to antiquity, such as the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Georgian and Armenian tongues.

The national policy of the Soviet Union abolished the inequality of peoples and insured for all nationalities the right to free development of their national cultures and languages. A Decree of the Council of People's Commissars issued on November 15, 1917, and signed by Lenin and Stalin, established for all peoples, among other rights, the right to the "free development of national minorities and ethnographical groups inhabiting the territory of Russia."

The measures regulating teaching in the schools were of particular significance to the free development of languages. Since the Revolution all nationalities have been able to study in their native tongues at all schools, and to use their own languages in court.

In the Soviet Republics the native vernaculars were introduced into the schools and Government institutions by special legislation. In the Byelorussian SSR, for example, the declaration of independence (August 1, 1920) established the complete equality of the Byelorussian, Russian, Polish and Yiddish languages in educational institutions and in all relations with government bodies. Acts guaranteeing all peoples and national minorities inhabiting the Ukraine the right to education in their native languages go back to 1919. In the Transcaucasian SSR the right to use their own languages was guaranteed to both majority and minority groups by government legislation in 1923.

The right of the peoples of the USSR to the free development of their languages was given legal form in the constitutions of the Soviet Republics, beginning with 1925 and ending with the Stalin Constitution of the USSR (articles 121 and 123).

Those peoples who had formerly no written language were helped to acquire one. In the pre-Soviet

period some important languages had no script of their own, amongst them the Tajik, Bashkir, Turkmenian, Kabardin, Adygei, Chechen, Kara-Kalpak, Karelian, Lesgin, Dargin, Nogai, Ingush, Tabassaran and many other tongues. Some which in theory had scripts were in practice scarcely known in their written form. Several of the peoples of the eastern districts of the USSR were acquainted with the Arabic script through the Moslem schools and sometimes used



Friends—A Russian and a Tajik child out for a stroll in the Stalinabad Children's Park, Tajikistan

this alphabet for correspondence and for such books as were occasionally published.

Enriching Ancient Vocabularies

The absence of schools where instruction could be given in the national tongues held up the development of the various languages. The number of literates among the many peoples of the North Caucasus and Central Asia, to say nothing of such regions as the Altai and the Far North, did not exceed one to two per cent, including those who wrote Russian or Arabic. Obviously the written language in these districts, where it existed at all, was unknown to the vast majority.

A number of what were considered written languages were represented by one or two books published a year. The books that were published did not do much to develop the languages: of the few books published in non-Russian languages in 1913 only five per cent were of an educational character. The result was that the vocabularies of many non-Russian languages contained none but words of everyday usage. Words expressing scientific and technical ideas, even of school textbook standard, did not exist. There were no words with which to express social and political ideas.

Individual scientists, working on their own initiative, occasionally gathered and correlated lexicographical material of the numerous languages which existed in pre-revolutionary Russia. But the only complete dictionaries compiled were of the Yakut, Chuvash, Ossetian, Georgian and Armenian languages, and these were such as would be useful only to a small circle of philologists. Such grammars as existed were of the same type.

Provision of Alphabets

The first problem the Soviet Government had to face was the provision of alphabets. To put into effect the decree on school instruction in the native language, textbooks had to be produced, and literature for the people had to be published in all languages. Alphabets which had been in use before the Revolution were at first applied.

Most of the peoples of the East employed the Arabic script, and literature was accordingly published in this script for many of the peoples of the USSR. Books and newspapers appeared in the Kazakh, Kirghiz, Tajik, Turkmenian, Azerbaijani, Bashkir and Tatar languages and some of the languages of Daghestan and the North Caucasus. Some of the languages of the Volga basin (Mordva, Mari, Chuvash, Udmurt) and the Altai (Oirat, Khakass and Orets) were printed in Russian script.

The unsuitability of the Arabic script soon made itself apparent. A movement started in Azerbaijan for the introduction of an alphabet based on Latin script, and a new alphabet appeared in 1922. In the years that followed all the peoples whose languages used the Arabic script gradually adopted a Latinized alphabet, and new alphabets were devised for those languages which had formerly been unwritten.

The Latinized alphabets did not, however, facilitate the further development of the languages of the USSR. Russian is taught as a second language in all schools of all the Republics of the USSR, and the Soviet peoples strive to acquire advanced Russian culture and science. Their native languages are therefore constantly being enriched by new words which come to

them through Russian. This led to a new movement to substitute alphabets based on the Russian script for the Latinized alphabets. In 1935 the Kabardin people adopted a Russian alphabet, and the Balkarian people soon did the same. By 1937 all the peoples of the Russian Federative Republic, with the exception of the Bashkirs, had replaced their Latinized alphabets with new scripts based on Russian.

The Moldavian language was also transcribed into the new script. As far as the other Union Republics are concerned, the new alphabet was first adopted by Azerbaijan (on September 17, 1939), followed by the remaining Union Republics, with the exception, of course, of Georgia and Armenia, which still use their historically formed alphabets, and the Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Karelian-Finnish Republics, who have used the Latin script for centuries. The scientific work of compiling the new alphabets was done by the Institute of Language and Writing of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The next task was to compile grammars of the languages of the USSR. School grammars came first on the list. These were compiled by research workers and individual local specialists, aided by teachers of

the native vernacular. Grammars are now available in all Soviet languages.

One of the most important problems in developing the languages of the USSR is the regulation of new words and the working out of new terminology. The reconstruction of economy and of the whole way of life, the development of new methods of production in districts where there were formerly none at all, have made necessary the extension of the vocabulary to express a colossal number of new concepts. The vocabularies of the literary languages made use of the rich colloquial languages of the peoples, and have added international terms and those Russian words that have become international.

German fascism threatened to wipe out everything the Soviet peoples had achieved in 26 years in the sphere of national culture and language. In the temporarily occupied regions the Germans closed all the national schools, forbade under threat of severe punishment, including death by torture, the speaking and writing of native languages and the publication of books and newspapers in those languages. German was introduced as the only official language, which all were compelled to learn.

Reopening of Kiev University

Black smoke was still rising over the ruins of Kiev University and an artillery cannonade thundered to the west of the city, when students, builders, architects and scientists returned to their destroyed homes.

* * *

On the day after German troops entered Kiev, the plunder of University treasures began. Chief instigator of this banditry was "Dr." Benzing, whom the Hitlerites appointed to head the school. The world-famous collections of the Zoological and Zootomical Museums founded in 1834; valuable books of the rich library, ancient archives, and the scientific equipment of the physics, mathematics, chemistry, geology, geography and biology departments, were carried away to Germany.

What the Germans did not carry away they destroyed on the memorable night of November 5-6, when the beautiful century-old University building was blown up. Twenty-eight splendidly equipped laboratories, eight museums, a general library and special departmental libraries with a total of over 1,300,000 volumes, were destroyed.

Only a few days after Kiev was liberated by the Red Army, architects and builders arrived on the site of the destroyed University. By some chance four rooms in the left wing of one building escaped complete destruction. The organization in charge of restoration took up their quarters there and the excavation of the ruins began.

Teachers and students, among the first of whom was the University's old Rector, Alexei Rusko, came to help with the work. The empty shells of buildings were cleared of rubble and glass, windows were boarded up with plywood and doors provided.

Money for the urgent reconstruction of the main building was supplied by the government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The well-known Ukrainian architect, Professor Aleshin, is in charge of the rebuilding, and under his direction a plan is being created. The University will stand as it did before its barbarous destruction by the Germans—the safe which held the original plans of the University was salvaged from the ruins. The plans were badly damaged by the heat, but were restored after much effort.

Engineer Emelyan Terletsky, Chief of the Building Administration, states that every effort will be made to complete the enormous work of restoring the main building within six months. Store-houses, auxiliary buildings and dormitories for workers have already been constructed and preparations made for going ahead with the work.

For the first time, after the long intermission, faculty and students of the University recently gathered in the Liberal Arts Building. Many had lived the hard lives of Red Army men and guerrillas. One youth of the History Department came from be-

hind the enemy lines to find out when new classes would begin. Only a few days before, he had taken part in a military operation with his detachment, which has been fighting the Germans since October, 1941. After registering with the dean of his section, he left for the guerrilla detachment, promising to return when classes opened.

Youths who lived in Kiev in hiding all during the occupation, to escape deportation to Germany, as well as many who formerly studied at the University and have been demobilized from the Red Army, have registered, and there are also many freshmen.

Everything in the University must be created anew.

Faculty and staff have worked ceaselessly to collect a library. They scoured the city for textbooks, and opened a shop to buy books from the people. The library already numbers some 200,000 volumes.

* * *

January 15 was a day of celebration for Ukrainian culture. Classes commenced in Kiev University, which bears the name of Shevchenko. Over 300 students attended the first lectures. The ruins of the main building can be seen from the halls where lectures are now being held. But the happy, cheerful sound of hammers and saws mingle with the hum of scientific work and classes. Inside and out, the University is at work.

GERMAN WAILERS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Nazi Germany has squads of official wailers, as well as of incendiaries. The incendiaries burn the towns and villages of Byelorussia. The wailers try to move the world with tales of Germany's sufferings.

In Byelorussia I saw cows shot by German tommy gunners. After the Versailles peace, when Germany had to surrender a certain number of cows to France as part of the reparations payment, the German wailers sobbed over the fate of German children left without milk.

Why then do the Germans kill cows in Byelorussian villages? Is it some device for halting our tanks? But surely, even the most stupid German understands that a cow is not a gasoline truck. By killing cows, the Germans want to deprive Soviet children of milk.

The Germans were always noted for their foresight. While our villages burn, the wailers hope to extinguish with tears the fire which will consume Hitlerite Germany.

Nazi tears will move no one. Among themselves microbes probably consider Pasteur a murderer. But we know that he who kills the microbe of madness or plague is a true humanitarian.

Thanks for What?

For ten years German mammas taught their children to say: "We thank the Fuehrer." It was a standard polite expression. On receiving a pepper-

mint, a young Aryan was supposed to thank his Fuehrer.

A year ago the formula suddenly became unpopular. But now the almost forgotten words are reappearing—on the charred facades of Berlin houses wrecked in recent raids. According to Swedish newspapermen, they are covered with "We thank the Fuehrer."

Herr Joachim von Ribbentrop thanks his Fuehrer. Naturally, among hangmen he is considered polite. And he has had plenty to thank his Fuehrer for. While transferring his savings to neutral countries, he decorated his house with Sevres porcelain and Tsarskoye Selo bagatelles. There are, or used to be, a lot of interesting documents in Ribbentrop's safes, showing exactly why he thanks his Fuehrer. War is more profitable than adulterated champagne. One can get really rich on war.

On November 23, 1943, Joachim von Ribbentrop's house was burned down by an impolite bomb. His "trophies" perished—porcelain, ancient snuff boxes. A correspondent relates that the fearless traveling salesman was particularly concerned to save his papers.

* * *

In the fascist menagerie I feel sorry only for the beasts—I mean the real beasts, the quadrupeds. The fire spread to the Berlin Zoo, and the beasts dispersed. How distasteful it must have been for the honest lion, not to speak of the big-hearted elephant, to find himself among the residents of modern Berlin.

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Economic Significance of Liberated Areas

By Professor Ramzayev

From July 5 to November 5, 1943 the Red Army liberated 350,000 square kilometers of territory of extreme economic and strategical importance.

The northern part of this territory, as far as the Orel-Kiev line, forms part of our so-called "mixed forest" zone. Its enormous tracts of woodland are of immense importance to our economy. Further south from the Orel-Kiev line, approximately as far as the Izyum-Kremenchug line, is a zone of forest and steppe most favorable for socialist rural economy. South of the Izyum-Kremenchug line, as far as the shores of the Azov and Black Seas, the liberated territory is a vast steppe covered with fertile black earth.

These regions are crossed by river arteries such as the Severny Donets, the Desna, the Sozh and the Dnieper. The temperate climate is very favorable for the development of the most varied branches of rural economy (agriculture, horticulture, stock raising, etc.).

The area restored to the Soviet people in the summer battles possesses large reserves of raw materials most valuable for the national economy. It is sufficient to remember that it includes the entire Donets Basin. Before the war the Donbas produced over 50 per cent of all the coal mined in the USSR. In addition there are several bituminous coal beds in



These Soviet infantrymen have just received the special "For the Defense of Leningrad" Medal Radiophoto

liberated territory—for example, those near Dnepropetrovsk.

Oil, Power, Mercury

Just before the war oil was discovered near Romny, in the Sumy region. There is natural gas in the Donets Basin; there is peat in the Chernigov region, in Byelorussia and in the western districts of the Orel and Kursk regions; there is timber—and there are powerful reserves of “white coal,” chiefly on the Dnieper.

There are large salt deposits in the Artemovsk area of the Stalino region, and considerable reserves of mercury in the Nikitovka area. Near Novorossisk is an immense cement clay bed, where great factories were built to produce cement for dams and other hydraulic projects.

All this territory was known before the war for the high development of its productive forces. Its population was about 35 million, which is over 17 per cent of the total population of the USSR. The percentage of industrial workers, engineers and technicians was very high. This was natural, for Novorossisk and Taganrog, the Donbas towns of Kharkov, Zaporozhye, Dnepropetrovsk and Dnieprodzerzhinsk, as well as Kiev, Bryansk, Bezhitsa, Smolensk and Orel, are big industrial centers.

90 Million Tons of Coal

The most varied branches of Socialist industry, mostly heavy industry, existed in the liberated territory and are now being restored. Even before the Great October Socialist Revolution the South was one of the basic industrial areas of the country. The Revolution and the Stalin Five-Year Plans multiplied the economic power of these districts. It is enough to point out that before the war the Donbas produced about 90 million tons of highest-quality coal annually.

The southern part of the liberated territory is the most important metal-producing area in the Soviet Union. Even before the Revolution the Donbas produced over 50 per cent of the country's cast iron. The Stalin Five-Year Plans made the Donbas preeminent for high-grade steel, cast iron and rolled steel. The metal works of Stalino, Makeyevka, Ordzhonikidze, Konstantinovka, Kramatorsk, Voroshilovsk, Sergo, Dnepropetrovsk, Dnieprodzerzhinsk and Zaporozhye produced vast quantities of iron and steel for the national economy and for defense. Konstantinovka, Zaporozhye and Nikitovka produced aluminum, zinc and other non-ferrous metals.

Machine Building

The presence of mineral fuel, raw materials and a metallurgical industry made it possible to develop a powerful and varied machine-building industry in the Soviet South. During the years of the great Stalin Five-Year Plans the South developed a large machine-

tool building industry (at Kharkov, Kiev and elsewhere) and began to produce equipment for heavy industry (Kramatorsk), for the shipbuilding industry (Kiev), for the mining industry (Stalino, Gorlovka, Kharkov, Druzhkovka) and for the food and light industries (Kiev, Kharkov, Taganrog), as well as agricultural machines (Novorossisk, Osipenko, Kharkov, Zaporozhye), and locomotives and railway carriages (Voroshilovgrad, Kharkov, Ordzhonikidzeograd, Dnieprodzerzhinsk).

The liberated south was the birthplace of various branches of the chemical industry. Superphosphates were produced at Konstantinovka, nitrogen at Gorlovka, dyes and varnishes at Kharkov and Rubezhnaya in the Voroshilovgrad region, chemicals and drugs in Kiev and Kharkov. It had hundreds of enterprises of the lumber, food and light industries.

Light Industries

To the north, Chernigov, Orel, Smolensk and parts of the Kiev region abound in forests. Wood-working and chemical industries flourished at Smolensk, Bryansk and Orel, as well as at Kiev, Kremenchug, Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporozhye. Novorossisk, Bryansk, Kramatorsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Dnieprodzerzhinsk, Amvrosievka and other towns are centers of the building industry.

Various light industries (knitted goods, textiles, footwear, clothing, china, etc.) have sprung up in all these towns since the Revolution, but the area freed during the summer was particularly important as a center of the food industry. Mechanized bakeries, macaroni and confectionery factories functioned—and are now beginning to function again—in Kharkov, Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Novorossisk, Taganrog and Osipenko. Meat processing works, canneries, sugar mills, alcohol distilleries and tobacco factories sprang up in many of the large towns after the Revolution.

The existence of powerful mining, metallurgical, machine-building, chemical and other industries demanded enormous resources of electric power. For this reason two power rings of high capacity were created in this territory—Dnepropetrovsk (uniting Dnieproges, Dnieprodzerzhinsk and other power stations) and the Donets ring (consisting of Shterovka, Zuevka, Severny Donets and other power stations in the Donbas). Before the war these two rings produced four times as much electricity as all Russia under the Tsar.

The territory restored to the Soviet people in the summer of 1943 is a most important grain-producing area: 75 to 80 per cent of the acreage in the south and central zone (the highest percentage in the USSR) and 60 per cent in the northern is farm land. These territories used to give the USSR about 65 per cent of its winter wheat, about 10 per cent of its summer

(Continued on page three)

AIR RECONNAISSANCE VERSUS TANKS

By Major P. Dmitriev

On the Soviet Front combined reconnaissance is conducted by bombers and fighters in all weathers. The close watch on the enemy never slackens.

On a certain vital sector we foresaw that the Germans would use tanks for a break-through. Our main air forces at once went looking for concentrations of tanks and motorized formations. Aerial photography showed that the Germans had no tanks to a depth of 10 miles behind the front line. They must be somewhere. But where?

Reconnaissance men in Petlyakov-2 dive-bombers were sent to watch railway traffic deep in the enemy rear. Meanwhile fighter reconnaissance planes flying low surveyed all the paved and unpaved highways and country lanes leading to the front line. Photographs were taken.

We were particularly anxious to find out how strong the Germans were in one narrow area, and sent out reconnaissance fighter plane. The sector was photographed. There was nothing to be seen except isolated whippet and heavy tanks passing to and fro along the road.

Skimming low, our plane scanned the woods, gullies and scrub. All was deserted. But planes scouting farther afield spotted a considerable number of trains with tarpaulin-covered flat cars. Short-range reconnaissance planes noted that six freight trains laden with tanks were being unloaded simultaneously at a certain station.

These tanks then started for a concentration site. German anti-tank artillery and fighter planes, patrolling in several tiers, appeared in the district where the tanks were concentrated.

Having determined by their tracks the exact position of the tank concentration in the woods, and examined them from low altitudes, we dropped incendiary

diaries. The tanks crawled out of the blazing woods like moles. The Petlyakov-2s dealt the German tanks a massed blow.

But the Germans had not discarded their plans for this particular sector. They were unloading tanks deep in the rear, keeping the spot covered with powerful anti-aircraft fire. Lieutenant Lisitsin and Captain Polovkin of the Guards showed themselves real masters of reconnaissance. While the German fighter patrols were operating at 18,000 feet, with the flak range set at the same height, Polovkin and Lisitsin would appear unexpectedly below the fighters, put on speed, and complete their mission in spite of the anti-aircraft fire.

The day before the offensive the future battlefield was a peaceful, quiet scene. But we knew the German tanks were preparing for a big spurt.

In 24 hours the enemy had completed his regrouping and the concentration of his tanks. While it was getting light next morning, Soviet air scouts surveyed all the roads and the enemy's most immediate rear. Everything looked deserted.

The enemy offensive opened at 5:30 in the morning. The Germans made a feint attack with a hundred tanks. The Soviet commander had full information as to the direction in which the bulk of their forces would operate.

From this moment Soviet fighter scouts transferred their attention to the battlefield. Wherever the enemy air forces were closely concentrated, visual reconnaissance at rather low altitude gave the best results.

Unbroken continuity of reconnaissance during battles is extremely important. We fly in any weather, since it is precisely when air operations are hampered that the enemy takes the opportunity to regroup his force.

LIBERATED AREAS

(Continued from page two)

Great, about 50 per cent of its corn, about 40 per cent of its buckwheat, huge quantities of sugar beet, hemp, flax, sunflower seeds, castor oil seeds, mustard seeds, soybeans and other industrial and oleaginous crops. The shores of the Azov and Black Seas produce cotton. The return of the South means the renewal of vine-growing, wine production and horticulture.

This liberated territory had about 20 per cent of the total number of horses in the USSR, about 17 per cent of the big-horned cattle and about 25 per cent of

the hogs. The stock-raising State farms and collective farms supplied the Soviet people with enormous quantities of produce.

Before the war there were 30 kilometers of railway for every 1,000 square kilometers of this liberated territory. That is almost as much as in the U. S. A., which has 40 kilometers of railway per 1,000 square kilometers of territory.

Anapa, Taman, Taganrog, Mariupol and Osipenko, on the liberated coasts, are important seaports. Novorossiysk is the second naval base of the Black Sea Fleet. Through these ports the Soviet South has good sea communications with rich Transcaucasia.

THE GREAT DAM

By Major Nikolai Atarov

Major Atarov is a Soviet writer who has been with the Army at the front since the outbreak of war.

Many things must be passed over in silence in war-time; this is required by censorship laws which guard military secrets. But there is also another painful reason for reticence: many national shrines are in mourning today and there are symbols of national history which we try to avoid.

For the 192 million Soviet people, the great dam of the Dnieper hydro-electric power station—Dnieproges—was a monument to the creative epoch of the 1930's. When the 49 powerful concrete abutments formed a grand arch over the high banks of the Dnieper and the sparkling surface of the water rose higher and higher, leaving the famous Dnieper Rapids far below, the Soviet people first joyfully realized they were indeed capable of transforming their country. There was



Lieutenant General Nikita Khrushchov, Member of the Military Council of the First Ukrainian Front, speaks to a small citizen whose parents were deported to Germany by the Nazis

not a child in the USSR who was not familiar with the beautiful contours of the great dam and who had not drawn it in his sketch book.

As a young man I visited the construction site of the dam. It was at the time when the concrete workers were setting world records for concrete-mixing, when the right and left banks were competing with each other and every evening a red signal of victory would glow on one of the banks.

Eight years later I was in Bolshoye Zaporozhye, the industrial city which arose near the dam. On the crest of the dam, trolley cars were running and collective farmers were driving cows to market. Everything looked so matter-of-fact, so habitual. It was pleasant to see the delicate spider webs on the railings glistening over the raging waters below.

In the fall of 1941, in muddy trenches near Lenin-grad, we read Alexei Tolstoy's article, "Blood of the People." The wrathful voice of the author rang out like a tocsin. From this article we learned that "with our own hands we blew up the marvel of the Dnieper, our beautiful dam."

I visited the great dam for the third time when our front advanced to the Dnieper. The Germans had blasted the dam a second time; yet its powerful gray horseshoe-shaped walls still kept the waters at a great height. There are no words to express the grief of a Soviet citizen who sees the glory of his generation's work—the dam of the Dnieper heroes—caught in the flames of war.

In District No. 14 of Zaporozhye, workers N. Zhdanirov, A. Boichenko and V. Drovotul told us how the Germans tried to get the power station running. For this purpose they forced the Russians to hard convict labor, especially degrading in their native land. Furman, representative of the German Todt construction organization, set up overseers with rubber truncheons. War prisoners were outside the pale of the law; they were beaten with spades. The chief engineer of the dam, a German named Schwartz, broke the shoulder-blade of a 14-year-old boy. Every day starved and tortured people died on the dam and were thrown into the Dnieper.

Before his death one of these Russians begged his comrades to throw his body unobserved into the liquid concrete. "When it dries," he said, "I'll cause a crack in the German concrete. . . ."

This concrete worker did not read Alexei Tolstoy's article, "Blood of the People." Yet I believe that if the gray-haired Russian author were to write another rallying cry, he would gratefully dedicate his oath of vengeance to this unknown martyr, this hero of the Russian people.

Ace Trains 100 Pilots

Ivan Sklyarov began to fly fighter planes in March, 1943 and brought down his first Messerschmitt near Belgorod at the beginning of the summer offensive. More than a hundred pilots trained by him are keeping step with their teacher in air battles with the Hitlerites.

This outstanding Soviet ace, who wears three decorations, has accounted for one out of every ten planes brought down by his regiment over Ukrainian territory.

Only Three Survived . . .



(Left to right) Yefim Vilkis, 33; Leonid Ostrovsky, 31, and Vladimir Davidov, 28

These three men are the only survivors of the Nazi mass murders in the Babi Yar ravine near Kiev, where between 60,000 and 100,000 civilians and 25,000 war prisoners were slaughtered.

When the Red Army approached Kiev last summer the Germans tried to erase the traces of their crimes. A group of prisoners, among whom were Vilkis, Ostrovsky and Davidov, were taken to Babi Yar, given

spades and ordered to dig up the bodies. This method proved too slow, and excavators were brought up for the work. The bodies removed from the ravine were cremated in huge incinerators which burned from August 19 to September 28. Prisoners who were forced to attend these incinerators and who fainted at the task were shot on the spot.

Knowing they would be shot as soon as they finished the work, the prisoners made an attempt to escape. A locksmith among them made a key to their chains and unlocked them; the prisoners succeeded in overpowering their guards and fleeing to the fields and ravines. The Nazis pursued them, and all except Vilkis, Ostrovsky and Davidov were killed by machine-gun fire. The three survivors hid in the cellar of a cement factory until the arrival of the Red Army.

When interviewed by correspondents, the men—all members of the Jewish race which Hitler has so nearly succeeded in wiping out not only in Kiev but in all occupied Europe—spoke with tears streaming down their faces. For all they know, their own wives and children were in Babi Yar ravine. They bared their bodies to show the many deep scars of wounds inflicted by the Nazi sadists, and the festering sores on their legs and arms left by the chains.



Mass grave of Soviet citizens slain by the Germans—found near the tractor plant in Kharkov. The victims were shot or asphyxiated by exhaust gases in sealed "murder vans"

Radiophoto

Working Hours in Soviet Industry

By G. Almazov

A 12 to 16-hour working day was the rule in Russia before the Socialist Revolution. The eight-hour day was universally introduced only after 1917. The rapid growth of the national economy thereafter enabled Soviet enterprises to adopt a seven-hour working day, and a six-hour day for occupations injurious to health. Later these gains of the working people were doubly secured. They were confirmed by the Soviet Constitution, and became law.

When the USSR was threatened with war, however, the trade unions were the first to raise the question of adding an hour to the working day, and in 1940, at the ninth plenary session of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions, they broached the necessity of an eight to seven-hour day instead of a seven to six-hour day.

"We must make ourselves several times stronger than we are, to be ready for all emergencies." That was how the Council posed the problem to all working men and women in the Soviet Union.

The decision of the ninth plenary session of the Council was immediately approved by Soviet workers, engineers and technicians. They knew perfectly well that the fate of the country and of Soviet power depended on them.

This additional hour's work at once boosted production. The coal mines increased their output by tens of thousands of tons. Thousands of additional trucks and automobiles left the conveyors of the Stalin automobile plant that year. The first State ball-bearing plant registered a 22.5 per cent increase in labor productivity for each worker. The Moscow textile industry during the same period turned out 130 extra tons of yarn, over 1,700,000 yards of unbleached and 14,000,000 yards of finished cloth.

This was all the more remarkable because, even though the Soviet work day had been lengthened by one hour, the people still enjoyed a shorter working day than many other countries—and this with Sundays off and two weeks' annual holiday. In France at that time there was a 72-hour week, whereas the German working day was 12 hours and more.

The outbreak of war made a longer work day necessary. Hitherto Soviet law had forbidden overtime work, with rare exceptions. When the war broke out, however, executive boards were permitted to avail themselves of one to three hours a day overtime labor. Expectant mothers from the sixth month of pregnancy were not permitted to work overtime, nor were women with infants less than six months old. Boys and girls under 16 were not permitted to do more than two hours' overtime per day.

Steppe Giant to Re-Equip Donbas

A great new Soviet industrial enterprise to produce big hydraulic presses and heavy machine-tools is rising in the Siberian steppes. This plant will play a key part in the restoration of the iron and steel and the heavy machine-building and tube-making industries of the Donets and Dnieper. Two hundred and thirty thousand square feet of factory space have already been put into use.

Some of the departments in this new plant are each equal in size to whole factories. The section which will turn out hydraulic presses and heavy lathes gives a vivid idea of the scale of the new works. It has a volume of 200,000 cubic yards. This entire space will be taken up by 13 great machines, some of which will be 40 yards long. Lathes weighing up to 420 tons will be produced by these machines.

More than a million rubles have been saved by the Stakhanovite workers who, in addition to overfulfilling their quotas, find means of economizing materials and power.

End of a German Landowner

A German landowner built himself a feudal manor house on the Smolensk-Vitebsk road and seized a large area of surrounding land for his estate. His name was Rosenthal. He has now fled, and his manor house, with its barbed wire and four fortified blockhouses at the corners, is in ruins.

Rosenthal built his fortress with the aid of the Todt organization. He got German soldiers to collect large numbers of cattle and agricultural implements from the collective farmers. He announced to the villagers of Kruzlovka that he was the owner of all their land, and went on to seize the land of neighboring villages as well.

A military detachment impressed Russian men and women to labor for him under serf conditions, working 14 to 15 hours per day. They were heavily punished, beaten and tortured for being late or for other small offenses. The ruins of Rosenthal's feudal manor mark the inglorious end of his attempt to impose serfdom on Soviet collective farmers.

Growth of Schools in Uzbekistan

A Soviet correspondent recently visited Evgenia Rachinskaya, Assistant People's Commissar of Education of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic. Rachinskaya taught the Russian language in Uzbek schools for 12 years, was appointed head of the Labor College and later to her present responsible post. In the interview she dealt only with the education of children, without touching on the higher schools. Following is the correspondent's report of her summary of this work:

Uzbekistan has 4,433 schools, of which 1,873 are elementary, 1,827 intermediate and 733 secondary. Together they have an attendance of 900,000 children. In most of these schools the teaching is in the native Uzbek tongue, while Russian is taught as a separate subject. Schools where tuition is given in Russian are those attended by Russian children, but a number of Uzbeks also send their children to these schools.

In Tashkent, capital of our Republic, there are 90 schools, of which 77 are secondary schools with a full 10-year course. On the eve of the October Revolution there were only four secondary schools.

During the war our schools have worked under extremely difficult conditions. Many of the buildings were taken over as hospitals or to accommodate institutions evacuated from the war zones, while many of our teachers were called up for military service. Despite all this, the number of schools and of pupils has increased. When the war began we had 475 secondary schools; today there are 733.

We are taking vigorous measures to train more teachers, mainly women. Twelve thousand Uzbek women have already finished teachers' training courses in the colleges. Altogether, since the beginning of the war 16,000 teachers have been trained.

We also have difficulty in securing textbooks and teaching aids. The war has made itself felt in the shortage of clothing and shoes for children. Last year 17,000 coupons were given to children in towns entitling them to shoes or clothing. In the villages this problem was solved by the collective farmers, who brought their own hides to the schools, which had them turned into shoes or boots for the children. The collective farmers also furnish the schools with provisions which enable us to supply hot lunches to the pupils.

No doubt you are interested in our children's homes, which are rearing and educating 28,000 children. Before the war we had 100 children's homes in the Re-

public; now there are 227, of which 36 are located in Tashkent. In 1941, when trains packed to the doors came to Uzbekistan from the west, we accommodated 11,000 children from 96 children's homes, among whom were 1,500 from 17 Polish children's homes.

The government of Uzbekistan has assigned 100 million rubles yearly for the maintenance of these homes. As a rule all these little wards of the State

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Electrician Rashida Shakirova, a Tatar, is a volunteer worker in the reconstruction of Stalingrad

Artists Created New Moscow Subway Stations

By Mikhail Alexandrov

The new branch line of the Moscow Subway, seven and one-half kilometers in length, connects the rapidly growing Stalin and Bauman workers' districts with the railway stations in the center of the city. The stations of the new branch line, which correspond to the principles laid down for all stations of the subway, are original in design, construction, decorative painting, mosaic and sculpture.

The theme for the decoration of the Ismailov station—the guerrilla movement—was suggested by the great struggle of the people against the German invaders. The architectural design is by Boris Vilensky, sculptor Matvei Manizer and chief artist Andrei Goncharov. Two other stations, the Airport and the Krasnye Vorota, were also designed by Vilensky, a young architect.

Matvei Manizer, Stalin Prize Winner, is known for his figures of Lenin and of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. Artist Goncharov worked with a group of his pupils from the Institute of Fine Arts. He is a painter, etcher and stage designer, many of whose works are in the collections of museums in Moscow, Leningrad, Erevan and Kazan. He has been awarded prizes for his etchings at International Exhibits in Milan, Warsaw and Paris.

The underground vestibule of the Ismailov station is distinguished for its spaciousness, ample air and light and harmonious color scheme. Except for the steel tracks, it would be difficult to believe one was in a subway station. Soft lights are reflected in the yellow-tinged marble slabs covering the walls and the columns supporting the arch. Bas reliefs in terra cotta depicting various types of arms are set in the walls in checkerboard fashion. Columns placed at regular intervals along the platform, which is about 150 meters in length, are crowned with sumptuous capitals. For the ceiling a group of young artists

headed by Andrei Goncharov executed 12 frescoes after the latter's sketches, representing "The Sky of the Motherland." The paintings in the station cover an area of 400 square meters.

The walls of the upper station are faced with yellow-toned marble, and a sculpture by Manizer, "Guerillas," adorns the entrance.

The Stalin station is very deep. Architect Samuel Kravets conceived the idea of using steel columns instead of cumbersome pillars. The station has been magnificently decorated by sculptress Vera Mukhina, People's Artist of the USSR, twice a Stalin Prize Winner, and artist Vladimir Akhmetiev. The central feature here is a monumental bust of Stalin in white marble, set in an eight-meter niche against a background of dark-red polished porphyry. This was designed by Mukhina.

The ticket booth and escalator halls are connected by huge arches faced with Urals marble in various tones. The ceilings are adorned with fine modeling in stucco with a light gilding. The first hall is done in white Karelian marble. The part of the walls along which the trains pass is picturesquely faced in green ophite and bluish Urals marble, ornamented with large sculptured pieces depicting modern arms. Artist Isaak Rabinovich, well-known stage designer and decorator, and sculptor Vyacheslav Andreyev have carried out in mosaic and sculpture their concept of the heroic front and the great Soviet country. Over the entrance arch leading to the escalators, picked out in mosaic, are the Guards banners of the Red Army and the banners of the outstanding industrial plants of the Bauman district. In the lower hall are a number of sculptured figures of heroes of the Red Army and of men and women workers—heroes on the labor front.

UZBEKISTAN SCHOOLS

(Continued from page seven)

study seven years in ordinary schools and at the same time learn a trade. Each home has its own vegetable garden and orchard, run by the children themselves.

Most homes have their own manual centers—wood and metal work for the boys, textile and clothing courses for the girls.

During the war we have considerably enlarged the network of kindergartens. Fifty-three thousand children of pre-school age are now accommodated in 770 kindergartens, thus allowing their mothers to work without anxiety. Of course, preference is given to the children of men in the services.

In conclusion, I want to pay a deserved tribute to the staffs of our schools and kindergartens, who are putting their hearts and souls into the care and education of our children.

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The Unconquerable City

By Major General I. Fomichenko

More than a year ago the Red Army launched an offensive on the Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts and on January 18, 1943 after seven days of fierce fighting broke the siege belt around Leningrad. This was a victory of major military and political significance.

The capture of Leningrad occupied a prominent place in the war plans of the German-fascist command. Besides the economic and cultural riches of

the city, which the Germans endeavored to seize, the Nazi command intended to push north to Murmansk and Archangel, sever the communication lines uniting the USSR with her Allies and pave the way for an offensive against Moscow and the interior of the country from the north.

Breaking through the Soviet defenses in the vicinity of Luga at the cost of tremendous losses in materiel



Soviet forces on the offensive

and manpower, the German-fascist army reached the near approaches of Leningrad on August 20, 1941. Hitler issued orders to take Leningrad in September. Nazi forces totaling more than 300,000, fully equipped with modern weapons, began to storm Leningrad in October together with the Finnish army, closing in simultaneously from the north, south and southeast.

Soviet forces were greatly out-numbered, but the warriors of the Leningrad Front fought together with the workers of Leningrad, who supported the fighting forces with armaments and numerous volunteer battalions. They put up a stubborn defense and the plans of the Nazi command to take Leningrad by storm fell through. In one month of the offensive the enemy lost more than one-half his manpower and the greater part of his tanks and planes. The German and Finnish troops were compelled to go on the defensive.

Having failed to take Leningrad by storm, Hitler adopted a new fiendish plan to strangle the city by hunger. The Leningrad forces and population found it extremely difficult to work, live and fight under the conditions of siege in the winter of 1941-42. Such a grave period was never experienced by any other city. But the staunch people of Leningrad did not give up the struggle for a moment. They exerted all their energy, mustered their strength and their very lives to fight the hated enemy.

A tremendous role in the defense of the city was played by the ice road built across Lake Ladoga by the inhabitants of Leningrad. Uninterrupted traffic on this ice road, despite unfavorable meteorological conditions, saved Leningrad from starvation and provided the front-line forces with a steady supply of munitions.

Failing in his second scheme, the blood-thirsty Hitler began to prepare for a new drive on Leningrad. Toward the end of September, 1942 the Finns tried to capture the island of Sukho, a key communications point. This operation also failed dismally. The Ladoga flotilla and the air arm of the Baltic Fleet sank 16 landing barges and wiped out enemy troops which tried to get to shore.

Cooperating with the forces of the Volkhov Front, the troops of the Leningrad Front launched an offensive against the Germans. As a result, the crack German units formed to storm Leningrad were routed. The enemy lost 60,000 killed and wounded soldiers and officers. Thus the second German offensive on Leningrad was nipped in the bud.

The forces of the Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts then persistently and stubbornly prepared for the powerful drive which led to the breakthrough of the siege lines around Leningrad. On January 12, 1943 at

9:30 A. M., after careful preparations, Soviet forces launched the attack from two directions: from the western bank of the Neva, southwest of Schlusselburg, and south of Lake Ladoga. Breaching the Germans' strong fortifications to a depth of 14 kilometers and forcing the Neva River, they occupied a number of enemy strongpoints. The Germans put up stiff resistance, clinging to every firing point, stronghold and height.

A bitter struggle broke out in the No. 5 workers' settlement. Red Army columns advanced on the settlement from two directions. The downfall of this strongpoint spelled defeat for the Germans in the entire battle. The Hitlerites therefore fought desperately, rushing up large numbers of reinforcements. In this strongpoint alone ten thousand fascists were wiped out. On January 18, 1943, at 11:00 A. M., the Germans were driven out of this settlement and the forces of the two fronts united. The siege ring around Leningrad was smashed.

How can this major success be explained? The principal factor was the military skill of the Red Army commanders and the courage and heroism of Soviet warriors. The decisive blow of Soviet forces from the west bank of the Neva southwest of Schleusselburg and south of Lake Ladoga struck at the most vulnerable link in the German defense system. The character of the enemy's defenses was given due consideration in the preparations for the breakthrough. Soviet troops of the Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts accumulated valuable experience in the 17 months' defense against the German invaders before Leningrad. This experience, however, was insufficient for the breakthrough operations. It was necessary to train forces in the art of offensive fighting. The men and officers of the Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts acquired this skill in practice battles as near to the real thing as possible.

The defeat of the Germans near Leningrad was a major success for the Red Army and a resounding slap in the face to the leaders of German fascism. The Nazi invaders tried to humble the people of Leningrad by starvation, but the heroic defenders of the city did not lose spirit; they overcame all obstacles and privations with iron perseverance, and conducted a struggle against the hated enemy unprecedented in history. They steeled their will in this titanic struggle. The civilian population and armed forces gathered their strength, delivered a crushing blow to the enemy and smashed the siege ring around Leningrad.

The new offensive launched against the invaders has met with brilliant success. Leningrad has been freed from the nightmare of long-range shelling. Soviet troops continue their advance to the west.



A group of Leningrad citizens who received the "For the Defense of Leningrad" Medal. They are (left to right) the noted seaman-author Vsevolod Vishnevsky, and fortifications builders Zinov'yeva, Semyonova, Kotova, Professor Kobenko, Evseyeva and Grigorieva

Radiophoto

Leningrad Guerrillas Strike

Guerrilla detachments operating in the Leningrad Region are helping the Red Army rid their native soil of Nazi invaders, and are delivering strong blows at enemy communications and railroads.

One column under the direction of V. conducted a raid on the M. railway station of the Warsaw railroad. Breaking through to the station, the guerrillas opened furious fire at the Germans. At the same time another column under the leadership of O. attacked the German garrison quartered in the station settlement. The headquarters of the commandant and the ammunition and fuel dumps were set on fire by the People's Avengers.

After a battle lasting three hours, during which the guerrillas attacked six times, another important station fell into their hands. They destroyed 800 meters of roadbed, blew up several trains loaded with

enemy war materiel and held up traffic on this line for six hours.

As a result of these guerrilla raids on the vital railway communications the Germans were unable to transfer their forces to and from the front on January 15 and 16. The whole system of railway traffic was blocked and disorganized. In four days of action beginning on January 15, guerrilla detachments destroyed dozens of kilometers of roadbed and derailed seven enemy troop and munitions trains.

Three Tracks for New Subway Branch

In the new branch line of the Moscow subway, recently opened, the three-way tracks variant was adopted, so that during rush hours two trains may travel simultaneously in the same direction.

Work of Anti-Tank Artillery Regiment

By Colonel A. Vasilyev

The Red Army has special anti-tank artillery regiments whose task is to bar the road to attacking or counter-attacking enemy tanks. Not infrequently these regiments have to fight alone and unsupported.

Recently an anti-tank regiment took up a position on the west bank of a river, with orders to cover a concentration of Soviet infantry. The batteries were arranged in two rows in checkerboard fashion. The evening and succeeding night passed quietly. The Germans were evidently drawing up their rear reserves and massing tanks, the clanking of which could be heard distinctly through the night. The regimental commander instructed the battalion commanders on the order of fire, directing them to open fire at a range of not more than 300 meters and only at a given signal.

In the morning two enemy tanks appeared from a thicket some 700–800 meters away. They advanced cautiously toward the river, heading for the spot where the regiment's batteries were located. These were reconnaissance tanks. When they were within 300 meters of the first battery, one of its guns opened a running fire at both tanks. The latter retaliated, but the Soviet guns were well-concealed. Within two or three minutes at most, one of the tanks began to spin helplessly and smoke poured from it. The other turned and retreated at top speed. Three men leaped out of the damaged tank and ran toward the woods, but were felled by shrapnel.

Soviet Gunners Hold Fire

After this unsuccessful sortie the Germans attacked the Soviet positions in force. German panzers emerged from the woods, deployed into two lines and bore down on the batteries, firing as they came. Soviet gunners held their fire until the tanks were within 400 meters—then the 26 guns spoke. Three tanks were shattered and one set on fire. The others halted but continued firing. Two more were destroyed; smoke and flames poured from another two. Our batteries intensified their fire and the remaining tanks turned simultaneously and raced full-speed for the woods. Three more were knocked out in the retreat.

Eleven tanks remained on the field, four in flames. But it was too early for rejoicing. A new attack was to be expected, since the Germans now knew the strength of our forces. Hardly had the tanks vanished when heavy mortar fire opened up from the woods. Evidently the enemy had a battalion or two of infantry in the forest. Soviet crews and guns were suffering from the mortar fire; the guns had to be hastily shifted to new positions and again camouflaged.

After about an hour and a half the enemy mortar fire subsided, but again the rattling of tanks was heard. Then about 30 panzers emerged from the woods and dashed toward our batteries, which opened fire this time when the tanks were 450–500 meters distant. In spite of the longer range, four more panzers were knocked out after two or three salvos. The rest again turned back and took cover in the forest.

Combined Enemy Forces Routed

A long silence followed. It was assumed that the enemy was reforming and replenishing his forces in preparation for a fresh attack. The Soviet artillerymen took advantage of the pause to remove the killed and wounded and the damaged guns. The positions of some of the batteries were shifted and ammunition reserves brought up.

At four in the afternoon about a battalion and a half of German infantry, supported by 15 to 20 tanks, one or two batteries and a dozen or more mortars, appeared from the forest. Evidently the Nazis had decided to throw everything they had into this attack.

Soviet artillerymen again allowed the enemy to approach to within 300–400 meters of their positions, when all guns opened a running fire. The German infantry, badly thinned by the first salvos, turned back. The tanks soon followed, except for six which remained shattered on the field.

The enemy's losses in these three daylight attacks were 21 tanks and about 200 men killed and wounded. Soviet losses were four guns knocked out, 18 men killed and 49 wounded. The west bank of the river remained in Soviet hands. The mission of the anti-tank artillery regiment was accomplished—under cover of its guns Soviet infantry completed its concentration for the next phase of the offensive.

Plant and Workers Receive Awards

Soviet Armaments Plant No. 9 has been awarded the Order of Lenin by a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. One hundred and twenty-seven workers of this plant have been decorated, and the title of Hero of Socialist Labor has been conferred upon its chief designer, Fedor Petrov, for his outstanding contribution in the designing of new types of field, tank and self-propelled artillery for the Red Army.

ON THE SHOOTING OF POLISH WAR PRISONERS BY THE GERMANS AT KATYN

The following editorial appeared in PRAVDA January 26:

The Hitlerite fiends have again been nailed to the pillory. A complete picture has been reconstructed of the monstrous atrocities perpetrated by the German-fascist bandits in Katyn. Today we publish the findings of a special commission for the investigation of the circumstances of the shooting of Polish officers, prisoners of war, by the German-fascist invaders in the forest of Katyn.

The "Katyn affair" is typical of the vile and fraudulent methods so widely resorted to by the Hitlerite bandits in the furtherance of their criminal aims. Prior to the attack of the German-fascist bandits on the Soviet Union there was a camp in the Smolensk Region for Polish war prisoners who were engaged in road building.

During the Red Army's retreat the situation was such that it was impossible to evacuate the Polish war prisoners and they all fell into the hands of the Hitlerite butchers. The German-fascist bandits, continuing the bloody policy which they had practiced in Poland of the complete extermination of the Poles, in the autumn of 1941 shot the war prisoners in the Smolensk Region. In order to cover up this atrocious crime and to further their vile political ends the Hitlerite bandits resorted to a monstrous fraud.

In the spring of 1943 they published a statement in which they attempted to fasten the guilt for the crime committed in the Katyn forest on Soviet authorities and declared that the massacre was committed in the spring of 1940. It was not for nothing that this iniquitous frameup was conceived in the spring of 1943. The winter of 1942-1943, during which the Red Army administered serious defeats to Hitler's army, was marked by the sharp deterioration of the military and political situation of fascist Germany, and by the further strengthening of the unity of the Allied Powers. Fearing retribution, and at the same time seeking to set the Russians and Poles at loggerheads, the Germans—faithful to Hitler's precept of not shrinking from the most repulsive and vilest atrocities—attempted to calumniate Soviet organs of government by ascribing their own villainies to them.

This attempt failed. Another abominable fraud of the German-fascist butchers was exposed to the eyes of the world. The Hitlerites' preposterous fabrication and vile slander was immediately exposed by a communique of the Soviet Information Bureau and by our press. The freedom-loving peoples of all countries repudiated with contempt the base calumnation

of the Soviet people who were displaying miracles of heroism, courage and nobility.

And only the emigrant Polish government fell an easy prey to the bait of the Hitlerite intriguers and stepped forward in the role of Hitler's lieutenants. The Polish government took an active part in the malicious anti-Soviet campaign of slander launched by the German invaders in connection with the "Katyn massacre." At a time when the peoples of the USSR were shedding their blood in an arduous struggle against Hitler Germany and mustering all their effort for the defeat of the common enemy of the Russian and Polish peoples and all democratic countries, the Polish government, to gratify the Hitlerites, dealt the Soviet Union a treacherous stab in the back.

By the fault of the Polish government, owing to its active participation in the Germans' malicious anti-Soviet slander campaign, diplomatic relations were broken off between the Soviet Government and the Polish government.

Now in the light of the evidence in possession of the special commission—the testimony of over 100 interrogated witnesses, the findings of medical experts, documents and other material dug up from the graves in the Katyn forest—the whole disgusting chain of German-fascist intrigue, murder and fraud which together comprise the "Katyn affair" has been brought to light. Documents published today prove incontrovertibly that the Polish war prisoners were in the camps west of Smolensk up to and including September, 1941, and that in the autumn of 1941 the German occupation authorities organized the wholesale shooting of the Polish war prisoners in the Katyn forest.

These wholesale shootings were carried out by the German military department disguised under the name of the "Staff of the 537th Construction Battalion" at the head of which stood Lieutenant Colonel Arnes and his assistants Senior Lieutenant Rekst and Lieutenant Hott.

The findings of the special commission expose the methods by which the German-fascist butchers fabricated the "Katyn affair." They tried by means of intrigue, coaxing, bribery, threats and brutal torture to find "witnesses" and to extort false evidence from them. More, they not only shot the war prisoners in the Katyn camp but brought there the corpses of prisoners shot in other places. The report of the special commission states that "in preparation for this malicious fraud the German occupation authorities employed in the work of uncovering the graves and removing documents and other material, the evidence of which might incriminate them, about 500

Russian war prisoners, who when this work was completed, were shot by the Germans."

The sadistic ill-treatment by the Hitlerites of their victims, the wholesale massacres and the methods of these massacres, are in the same category with the monstrous crimes which the Hitlerite murderers perpetrated on Soviet soil and which were exposed at the Krasnodar and Kharkov trials.

The investigations of the special commission furnish documentary proof that the massacres in the Katyn forest were committed on direct orders from Berlin in pursuance of the policy of physically exterminating the Slav peoples.

The atrocious crimes of the Hitlerite butchers in Katyn, which have been thoroughly exposed by the authoritative special commission, will evoke a storm of anger and indignation both among the Russian and Polish peoples and among all progressive men and women. Not one of the crimes of the Hitler bandits will be forgotten. They will be included in the indictment which will be brought and is being brought against the Hitlerite butchers. Not a single atrocity perpetrated by the Germans will go unavenged. The guarantee of this is the crushing blows which the Red Army is dealing Hitler's bandit hordes and the inflexible determination of all freedom-loving nations to achieve complete victory and the complete defeat of Hitler Germany at the earliest possible moment.

Hide-and-Seek—Spanish Style

By I. Chernyshev

Spanish ruling circles have long been known to be Hitler's servitors. They linked their fate with that of Berlin, hoping for the victory of the Axis powers, and loudly insisted that after the war Spain would occupy a leading place in the "new Europe" under the aegis of "greater Germany."

Immediately after Germany's treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, Franco sent to the Soviet-German front the "Blue Division," subsequently renamed the 250th Division. This division took the oath of loyalty to Hitler, and arrived on the front in October, 1941.

At that time, no secret was made of this fact in Madrid. On the contrary, Franco and his associates widely advertised their aid to Hitler and took every occasion to stress their complete solidarity with fascist Germany. In April, 1942, the then foreign Minister of Spain, Suner, said in an interview granted to V. Jensen, correspondent for the Swedish newspaper *Dagenposten*: "We have every reason to hope for our friend's victory. That is why we have sent our divisions to the Eastern Front."

In December, 1942 General Franco, in a speech at a meeting of the national council of the Spanish Falange, confirmed that the Spanish Falange held the same views as the German Nazis and Italian fascists and shared their aims, explaining that they were all "varieties of the same wave that has risen in Europe." Franco sent messages to Hitler expressing his loyalty and his confidence in the victory of German arms "in the glorious cause of Europe's liberation."

The hopes of Franco and Suner have been shattered. German arms missed fire. The defeat of German troops caused dismay among Hitler's accomplices in Europe. The Spanish government hastened to paint its front a new color and proclaimed that Spain

was maintaining neutrality. In the autumn of 1943 it was announced in Madrid that Spanish troops were being withdrawn from the Soviet-German front. In December the Spanish radio and Spanish newspapers officially reported that all Spanish troops had returned home.

However, after all this noise, a group of Spanish soldiers was taken prisoner by Soviet troops on the Volkhov Front in late December, 1943 and early January of this year. How did the Spaniards again appear on the Soviet-German front? Here is the story told by Otero Garcia Hernandez, of San Pedro Menrique, chauffeur to the commander of the Spanish Legion:

"In April, 1943 I was transferred to the reserves of the 250th Division and on July 3 was sent to the Eastern front in the neighborhood of the town of Pushkin, near Leningrad. In the autumn we were withdrawn to the rear and formed into the Spanish Legion, which was then sent to the front."

Leopold Santiago Inojosa, private of the staff company of the First Battalion, Spanish Legion, stated: "I came to Gatchina in August, 1943 with the 24th Replacement Battalion. To the new Legion the officers assigned for the most part soldiers who had not spent much time in Russia and were therefore regarded as more reliable."

From the statements of prisoners of war and from captured documents, it is evident that only demoralized soldiers whom it was hard to keep in hand were withdrawn to Spain. It should be borne in mind that the Spanish Division sustained enormous casualties on the Soviet-German front. To make good these losses 28 replacement battalions, each 1,200 to 1,300 strong, arrived from Spain at different times. When

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Facing a German Firing Squad

By Tatyana Tess

The man sent to repair my phone came while I was working on an article entitled "The Petrushkin Promontory," dealing with the German massacre of Soviet people near Taganrog. As he was taking the phone apart, the man glanced at the first page of the article and his face suddenly changed.

"Have you been in that part of the country?" he asked.

"Yes, I've just come back from Taganrog," I answered.

"Have you seen the death ravine and the graves?"

"Yes. Do you know that section?"

The man made no answer. A shadow passed over his face. Finally he said in a strange voice: "I faced a German firing squad on that Promontory."

Thus I heard a terrible and unexpected addition to my story.

* * *

Vasili Petrenko was in Taganrog when the Germans captured the city. He fell into the hands of the fascists, who locked him in a half-flooded cellar where he spent several days, with the result that his body swelled up and turned blue and he became feverish. One morning he was removed from the cellar and placed in a closed truck crowded with people and driven to the outskirts of the city. Petrenko recognized the place as the Petrushkin Promontory, a barren strip of land leading to the bay.

Dawn was breaking and the first rays of the sun lit up the horizon. Petrenko had a distinct recollection of the morning landscape, just as he remembered the nail in the corner of the truck, a pebble under his foot and several other details which impinged upon his memory with painful force.

Another closed truck drove up and all the prisoners were driven to the brink of the deep ravine. A German officer counted them—a total of 75. A nauseating sweetish smell rose from the ravine, an odor that made Petrenko dizzy—the odor of death, the stench of rotting corpses. Then he understood that it was here the Germans carried out their mass executions. He was still able to think clearly and to understand what was going on around him.

The German officer lined up the 75 people and ordered the last two on the right to squat facing the ravine. Then a soldier pulled out a Browning and shot these two through the base of the skull. The men rolled into the ravine. Two more men, this time from the left, were ordered to squat. In another second two more bodies fell into the ravine.

Petrenko stood in the center row watching this butchery of helpless men and women. The line was growing shorter and his turn was near. A numbness came over him. Everything seemed to have turned to ice. He tried to pinch his hand and kept on until he saw blood on his palm, but still he felt no pain. He gazed vacantly into the distance. Shots rang out from left and right; his turn would soon come.



Photograph found on the corpse of German officer Richard Zeuderman. The victim was a civilian inhabitant of a Ukrainian city

At this moment the rat-tat-tat of sub-machine guns split the air. The German officer and several soldiers fell to the ground. At first Petrenko failed to realize what had happened. Then he heard a shout: "Run!" He continued to stand as if petrified. Next to him stood two other men whose turn had not yet come. Again he heard a voice shouting: "Run!" and he saw

(Continued on page eight)

History of Music Written Under Bombing

By Tikhon Kholodny

Copies of the second volume of Professor Roman Gruber's *History of Musical Culture* have been sent to Moscow and to the larger libraries of America, England, China and other friendly countries. This volume, an interesting event for musicians, connoisseurs and music lovers, appeared in June, 1942. It was printed and bound amid the shrieking of Nazi bombs falling upon the peaceful cities of the USSR.

In August, 1941 Roman Gruber, a Professor at the Leningrad Conservatory, came to Moscow where he had accepted a chair in the Capital's Conservatory. Toward the end of October he received a telegram informing him that the printing of the second volume of his book was being held up, since there was no possibility of sending author's proofs to Moscow.

Leningrad was already under siege, but Professor Gruber did not hesitate; he secured a seat in a plane leaving for the Neva city, and from the airfield hurried straight to the publishing house. From that time he remained in Leningrad, sharing all the hardships of the siege and aiding in the defense of the city. During the day he was busy in the bookshops, libraries and museums, and at the publishing house. In the evenings, interrupting his literary work, he took up his post at the entrance to his apartment house, or mounted to the roof as a watcher and firefighter, extinguishing incendiary bombs.

He felt that he could not leave Leningrad, not only because its libraries, ancient and unique manuscripts, old folios, etc., were sources for his work, but also be-

cause he was impelled to record the achievements of culture in that splendid city—the cradle of Russian civilization—precisely at the moment the barbarians were striving to destroy it.

Like all Leningrad citizens, Professor Gruber starved and froze in his unheated apartment, and finally fell seriously ill. But even then he did not abandon his work. Since he was unable to walk, his friends brought a child's sled with a high back, placed him on it and dragged him to the publishing house, where he acted as author, editor, proof-reader and make-up man.

In these days the example of his friends inspired him. Dmitri Shostakovich was writing his famous *Seventh Symphony*. Leningrad artists carried on with their work, took turns as watchers on the rooftops and helped to bandage the wounded. To do this seemed to them simple, natural and necessary.

At last—amid the shrieking of Nazi bombs and in spite of them—the second volume of Professor Gruber's work appeared in the besieged city. He is now completing the third volume, about which he says, "I believe and hope this volume will also be published in Leningrad—but in a liberated Leningrad, celebrating its triumph over the enemies of mankind."

The Leningrad Soviet has presented Professor Gruber with the "For the Defense of Leningrad" Medal, which Dmitri Shostakovich also received on the same day.

SPANISH HIDE-AND-SEEK

(Continued from page six)

a handful of demoralized soldiers were withdrawn from Russia, Franco's government announced that the Spanish troops had returned home and were no longer taking part in the war on Germany's side. At the same time, Franco's government formed a new unit on the sly, and this unit is to this day fighting side by side with the Germans against Soviet troops.

The Spanish rulers are continuing to serve Hitler, only they now refrain from advertising the fact. Hitler's Spanish accomplices are playing hide-and-seek and resorting to all sorts of camouflage; under the guise of neutrality they supply fascist Germany with fresh consignments of cannon fodder.

These are irrefutable facts. No diplomatic tricks can explain them away.

GERMAN FIRING SQUAD

(Continued from page seven)

more German soldiers crumple up and fall to the ground. Then he regained his self-control and started to run down the road. The firing ceased and he halted.

An old man and a few young lads—a small group of guerrillas—armed with sub-machine guns, were descending the hill. The old man came up to Petrenko, whose head was swimming so that he could hardly stand. With the aid of the guerrillas he escaped and joined their unit, where he stayed until Taganrog was liberated by the Red Army. He was wounded several times in action and was sent to Moscow.

And now Petrenko was standing before me, calm and somewhat pale, telling his terrible story.

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Information Bulletin

(Issued Three Times Weekly)

Vol. IV, No. 13

Washington, D. C., February 2, 1944

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STALINGRAD ANNIVERSARY

One Year Ago—

Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to the troops of the Don Front:

To the Delegate of the Headquarters of the Supreme Command, Marshal of Artillery Voronov; and the Commander of the troops of the Don Front, Colonel General Rokossovsky:

I congratulate you and the troops of the Don Front on the successful completion of the annihilation of the enemy troops surrounded at Stalingrad. I thank all Red Army men, commanders and political workers of the Don Front for their splendid action in the fighting.

Moscow, Kremlin, February 2, 1943

(Signed) SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, STALIN



Marshal of Artillery Nikolai N. Voronov (left) and Army General Konstantin K. Rokossovsky—Cavaliers of the Order of Suvorov, First Degree

. . . *Stalingrad signified the decline of the German-fascist army.*—STALIN

The Battle of Stalingrad

By Colonel I. Korotkov

One year ago—February 2, 1943—the great Battle of Stalingrad was brought to a close. It resulted not only in the destruction and capture of 330,000 picked German troops, but marked the beginning of the decline of the German-fascist army. It was one of the most important battles not only of the present war, but of all wars. It developed along a huge front and engaged enormous masses of men and materiel. The entire world watched breathlessly as the Red Army emerged triumphant from the epic struggle.

In the summer of 1942 the German command drew up a strategic plan, the main objective of which was to outflank Moscow from the east and by an overwhelming blow from the southwest to cut it off from its Volga and Urals area, then to strike at the city. With this aim the Germans hurled enormous forces into the drive on Voronezh, and at a heavy cost succeeded in reaching that city. Here they were stopped by the solid defense and determined counter-attacks of Soviet troops.

The failure at Voronezh forced the Germans to change the direction of their offensive and to advance upon Stalingrad. They hoped by capturing the city on the Volga to drive an enormous wedge into the positions of the Soviet troops and to cut their communications with the south, and subsequently to develop their cherished thrust on Moscow. The drive in the Caucasus was designed to draw Soviet reserves from the main theater of operations.

In mid-July a numerically superior German force comprising the Sixth Army and the Fourth Tank Army broke through the Soviet front and advanced into the Don Bend. The enemy thought he was within reach of his objective. In reality he was heading for disaster. The Soviet Command took the necessary measures for the defense of Stalingrad and simultaneously worked out a far-reaching strategic plan for the destruction of the enemy force.

In the second half of July the Germans fought their way to the outer approaches of Stalingrad. Here an exhausting struggle went on throughout the month of August. The Germans paid with thousands of dead and piles of materiel for every step forward. In the early part of September they brought up fresh tank and infantry reinforcements and in the early part of September approached within striking distance of Stalingrad proper. About 25 picked divisions of the Wehrmacht were ordered to take the city at all costs.

The enemy attacks continued day and night. The Germans did not confine themselves to ground operations, but hurled as many as one thousand aircraft

against the defenders of Stalingrad. The Luftwaffe made over a hundred thousand sorties and dropped about one hundred thousand tons of bombs on the heroic city.

But the nearer the enemy approached Stalingrad, the slower was his advance. Soviet troops met the onslaught of the Germans with renewed strength and inflicted heavy losses upon them. Soviet strategy consisted of a well-organized system of defense in depth, backed by numerous attacks of infantry and tanks. As a result the Germans found their advance discouragingly slow. At times they could make no headway for many days running.

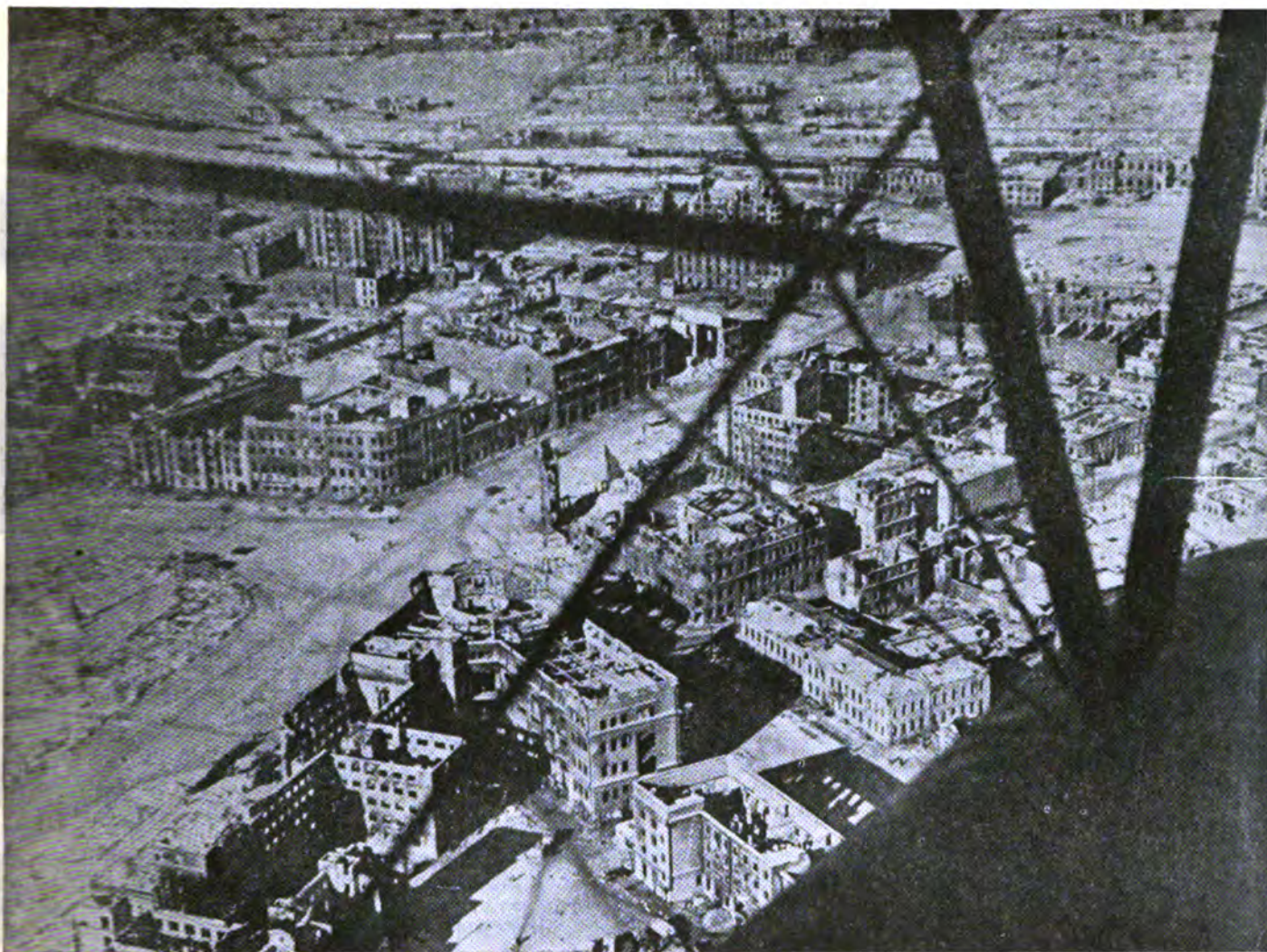
And while the enemy was draining his strength in a futile attempt to capture Stalingrad, the Soviet Supreme Command was making ready to strike crushing blows northwest and south of the city. The timely concentration of large forces and the choice of the zero hour were the two decisive factors in the counter-offensive. The first was secured by the formation of strategic reserves in the interior of the country; the second by the military skill of the Soviet Supreme Command in gauging the situation at the front.

In November, 1942, with the beginning of the Soviet counter-offensive, came the decisive phase of the war in Russia. The destruction of the German forces around Stalingrad was the chief objective of the Red Army.

At the very outset the operations in the Stalingrad area developed on a wide scale. On November 19 the troops of the Southwestern and Don Fronts struck out in a southeasterly direction from the area of Serafimovich. The troops of the Stalingrad Front, striking in a northeasterly direction, drove forward to meet them. On November 23 the pincers closed at Kalach. The greatest encircling operation in the history of warfare was brought to a successful conclusion. The German force under Field Marshal von Paulus found itself securely boxed.

The German command sought ways of escaping from the trap. Their Italian and Rumanian allies were ordered to hold the middle reaches of the Don while von Mannstein's Kotelnikovo group was to break through and relieve Paulus. The same task was assigned to the German troops in the areas of Tormosin and Nizhnechirsky.

But the Soviet Command forestalled the enemy. In the period from December 16 to 31, the troops of the Southwest Front routed the Italians and Rumanians



Air view of Stalingrad after its liberation from the Germans. Only shells of buildings remain

in the middle reaches of the Don and dealt a crushing blow to the German forces around Tormosin and Nizhnechirsky. At the same time von Mannstein's group was hurled back. The ring around Paulus' armies was drawn tighter. German attempts to aid their encircled troops from the air proved equally unsuccessful. Hundreds of enemy aircraft were brought down by Soviet anti-aircraft gunners and fighters. The German Stalingrad group was deprived of all contact with the outside world.

January 10 marked the beginning of the concluding phase of the Stalingrad battle. The task now was to destroy the German armies around the city. In order to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, the Soviet Command proposed an honorable surrender to the Germans. The enemy refused and the Red Army set out to liquidate the German forces. A powerful artillery barrage coupled with infantry assaults and mass air attacks broke the German group into two parts: northern and southern. Soviet troops advancing from

the west joined with the divisions in Stalingrad. First the southern enemy force was destroyed, and then the northern. Realizing that further resistance was futile, large groups of Germans began to lay down their arms. The end came February 2, 1943. Over 91,000 Germans, including 2,500 officers and 24 generals, headed by Field Marshal Paulus, were taken prisoner, and enormous booty captured.

Thus the battle of Stalingrad was the decisive operation of the second year of the Soviet-German war. It determined the future course of the fighting in Russia. The remarkable Soviet victories in the summer and autumn of 1943 were a continuation of the success scored by the Red Army in the winter campaign of 1942-43. These victories were made possible by the stability of the Soviet home front, which supplied the armies in the field with everything needed. They were made possible by the might of the Russian people and its Red Army commanded by the great leader, Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin.

THE GREAT CITY

By Vasili Koroteyev

The following is part of a booklet on Stalingrad written by a 32-year-old war correspondent for KRASNAIA ZVEZDA, a native of the Stalingrad Region, who remained in the Volga city throughout the epic siege. Koroteyev's wife was killed during the fighting. After the victory of the Soviet forces he spent some time on other fronts, returning to Stalingrad in August, 1943. The booklet is a record of this visit.

The plane approaches the Volga. In another moment the bright ribbon-like streak of the river will flash and the city come into view. I close my eyes, remembering the disfigured, wrecked and charred Stalingrad I saw last autumn. I shrink from this fresh visit. But when I open my eyes, the appearance of the city from the air seems to have undergone little change.

The road from the airfield to the city runs past green melon-patches. The air is filled with the odor of wormwood. From the lower Volga blows the dry Caspian wind. Suddenly among the bright green watermelon leaves rises the figure of a German soldier—field-gray uniform, black helmet and all.

"What's that?" I ask.

The Ukrainian chauffeur grins. "Just a scarecrow."

It seems that a Stalingrad melon-grower has utilized the uniform and helmet of a German brigand to scare away the crows.

It is a hot August day. Half a year has passed since the victory of Stalingrad. As we drive along the Stalingrad-Sarepta highway, on the southern approaches to the city, we pass scores of cars of many different German and French makes speeding in the opposite direction. Among them are heavy troop-carriers on treads, Adler staff cars, luxurious Oppels,



Artillery Sergeant A. Protasov and his friend, who remained with him throughout the Battle of Stalingrad

Unions, Mercedes-Benz and BNVs. The whole city seems to be driving in trophy machines.

"A present to Stalingrad from the Sixth Army," explains our smiling chauffeur.

Near the railway tracks on the southern outskirts we come across a vast dump of smashed enemy airplanes: German, Rumanian and Italian fighters, heavy bombers and scouting and cargo planes—with green, yellow, gray and orange fuselages, ripped-off tails, smashed motors and broken wings. Over 2,000 of the enemy planes brought down over the city and its environs have been assembled in this "cemetery."

Farther along the road, also near the railway tracks, is another "cemetery" of German tanks, armored cars and guns. Hundreds of disabled tanks have already been repaired and are fighting against their former owners.

At last we are in the city. At first glance it seems dead. For nearly 50 miles in length and two to three miles in width—from the steppe to the Volga—stretch heaps of rubble and the charred walls of buildings with empty windows, like gouged-out eyes. The ruins of the houses lie close together, the wreckage of one intermingled with that of its neighbor. It is as if the city had been pounded in a gigantic mortar, or a tornado of unheard-of force had swept through and overwhelmed it.

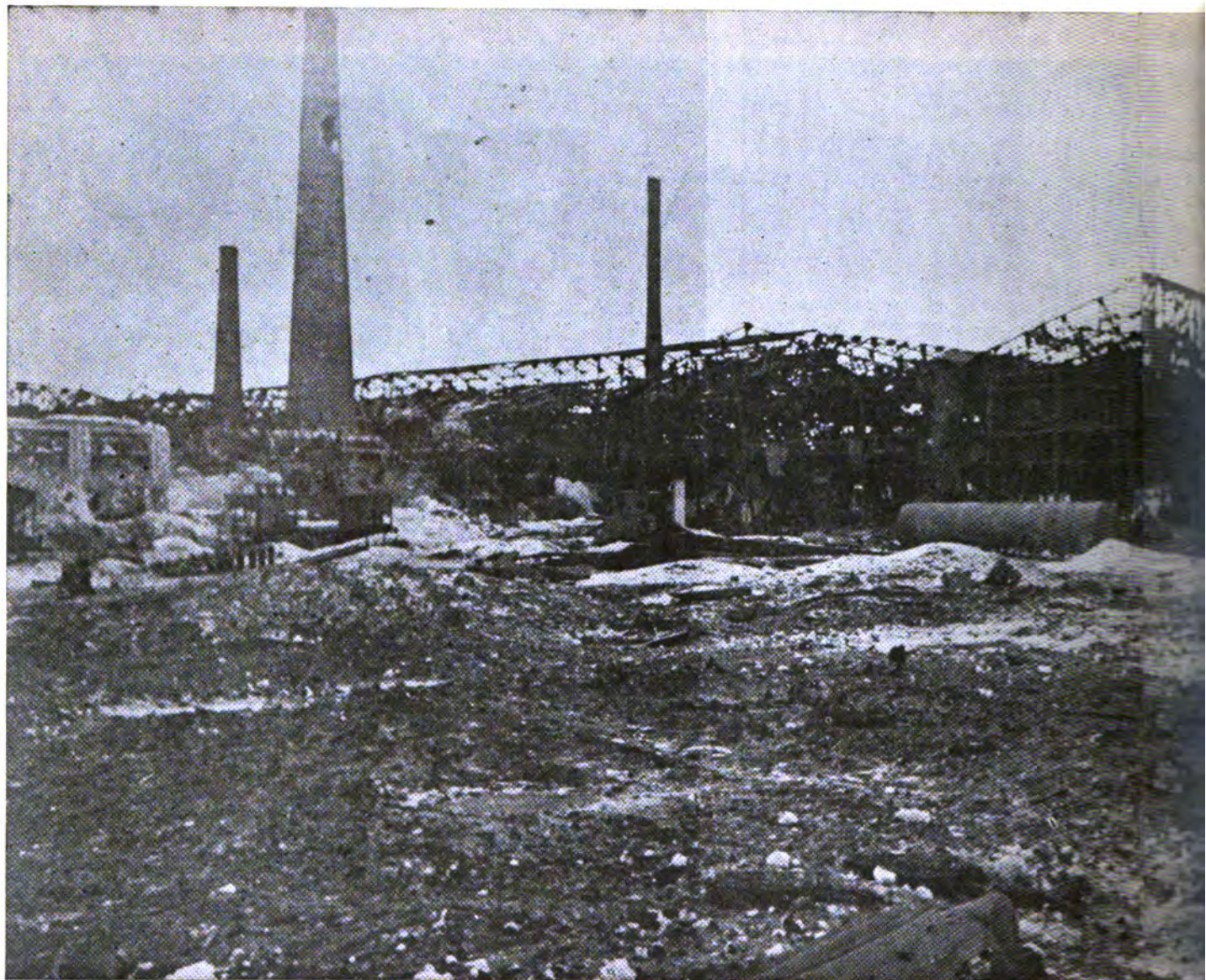
But the city is alive! Young trees are rearing their green crests; scaffoldings are rising above the wreckage. Amid the ruins there are scarcely any undamaged—or as they say here, "fortunate"—houses. Yet the city already has a population of 215,000, and the Chairman of the Stalingrad Soviet, Dmitri Pegalov,



The only Nazi to reach the Volga



Types of the "master race" taken prisoner by the Red Army at Stalingrad



Silent witness to the dauntless spirit of the Stalingrad workers. One of the city's great industrial plants, ca

expects this figure to rise to at least 300,000 before the year's end.

A joke commonly heard in Stalingrad runs like this: "Formerly there was a city and a housing problem—now there is no city, but all are housed."

But where do all the people in Stalingrad live? In the basements of wrecked or burned houses, in canvas or cloth tents, in hastily-built barracks, in dugouts and bunkers, in damaged German autobuses—of which there are still many left in the city—and even in the fuselages of damaged planes.

Life here is no picnic, of course. But the Stalingrad people are ardent patriots who love their Volga city with the imperishable love of loyal sons. They

are men and women of unbending fortitude and noble civic courage hammered out in constant constructive work in Stalingrad's industries and in the heroic defense of Tsaritsyn and Stalingrad. The military and labor traditions of the city—discipline, perseverance and a sense of duty to their country—are in the very blood of these people. Foremost in their minds today is the reconstruction of their city.

Out of Ruins and Ashes

Anyone who remained in Stalingrad during the siege and saw the city after the defeat of the Germans, could hardly believe it possible to restore it. But Stalingrad is rising from its ashes and ruins.

In the center of Stalingrad the City Soviet and



icked by the Germans—but never captured. A young Soviet tommy-gunner stands guard over the ruins

dozens of other buildings are being restored. The workers live in tents pitched in the parks, whose trees shared the fate of the city. The Municipal Park is littered with shell and bomb splinters. A charred acacia lies stricken, felled by a shell. Next to it stands a maple, with trunk pitted by shell-splinters, the crest lopped off and branches charred. Its leaves are black—it is dying. But young and luxuriant verdure is already springing up beneath it.

Among the statues of children at play is a laughing child with one arm missing; a tiny hand lies on the ground. The air here was thick with flying bullets and splinters. In the Zoo only the lions' cage, built of brick and iron, escaped destruction. The massive white theater in the midst of the park stands

like a dead giant, with seared steel rattling in the wind. Boys and girls are clearing the space which was once the stage.

The bank of the Volga is humming with activity; there is a constant ringing of axes, singing of saws and grating of stone-crushers and concrete-mixers. Smoke is already rising from the tall smokestacks of many factories. Each day people count the number of houses rebuilt, the machines installed in repaired plants.

Builders of the New Stalingrad

The initial work of reconstruction was begun by those who defended the city and smashed the Germans. They restored 17 bridges and repaired dozens



After the victory—columns of German prisoners file through the shattered streets of Stalingrad

of miles of road. Men of the rear services rebuilt the first houses, doing the work in off hours. Instead of limestone and alabaster they used clay, and instead of iron, bits of German wire and scorched metal.

The slogans of the heroic days of the defense are now interspersed with new slogans. One surviving wall of a wrecked building carries the words: "We will carry out the country's order—we will die rather than surrender Stalingrad!" On the next building is the inscription: "Let us make it our life's aim to revive our Stalingrad!"

One of the heroes of present-day Stalingrad is Nadya Tyuleneva, a 15-year-old Komsomol from the Kirov Region. She is a bricklayer who doubles her quota daily, laying 2,520 bricks each shift. Another is Alexandra Cherkasova, a former kindergarten teacher; a frail woman, mother of two children. Her husband is at the front, and she herself took part in the defense of Stalingrad as a nurse, saving the lives of many wounded. Cherkasova organized a brigade of women office-workers who after working hours helped restore the famous Pavlov house. Pavlov, a Red Army sergeant, with a handful of men defended this house till death. The enterprise of Cherkasova

gave rise to hundreds of similar volunteer brigades. Thousands of workers in factories and offices are helping to rebuild the city after their day's work and on Sundays, adding to Stalingrad's military glory the glory of heroic labor.

Country Helps Stalingrad

The entire country helped to defend Stalingrad. Now the entire country helps to rebuild it. As soon as the great battle on the Volga ended, brotherly help began to stream into the city. Ships and trains brought glass from Penza, lumber from Archangel, machine tools from the Urals, coal from the Donets Basin, prefabricated houses from the Molotov Region. They are bringing books, tools, clothing and footwear, cement, nails and furniture—everything needed for the restoration of the city. Hundreds of thousands of individual gifts have also been delivered to Stalingrad.

A group of girls from Siberia is repairing an apartment house. On the walls there is an inscription: "The men of the tank brigade defending this building fought to the last drop of their blood. The fascists did not pass!" The Siberian girls are working with

self-sacrificing zeal to restore this building—which was defended by their countrymen.

But what has been achieved counts for little compared with the job ahead. Architects Iofan and Alabyan have drawn up a project for the construction of a new Stalingrad, one of the features of which will be an open riverside boulevard running from one end of the city to the other.

The work to be done before the job of reconstruction was in itself enormous. "In three months," said Alexei Chuyanov, Chairman of the City Defense Committee, "the civilian population and units of the Red Army picked up and buried 128,000 German corpses and 11,000 dead horses. A rather unpleasant job, of course—but we wouldn't have minded even double the number, or more. The menace of epidemics, which was quite serious, has been removed. Another urgent task was to clear buildings, streets and roads of mines. As many as 1,063,000 anti-tank and anti-infantry mines were rendered harmless within a few months. But to this day not all of the mines have been removed."

In confirmation of this statement a number of explosions shake the ground nearby and black clouds of smoke arise from a hill outside the city. Volunteer sappers, who have been given special training, are exploding mines, six months after the German defeat.

The Bastions of Stalingrad

After passing the destroyed Balkany section and crossing a bridge over a deep ravine, one reaches the northern section of the city where stood the three huge plants which for three months stood in the way of the main thrust of the Germans. For three months the world followed with breathless anxiety the reports on the fighting in the northern section of Stalingrad.

Unlike the center of the city, where the shells of houses remained standing and even some buildings survived—in this section everything from the Balkany plant to the Tractor works was razed. Not even trees remain. The sand and clay ravines which run



A street scene in liberated Stalingrad



From all over the Soviet Union have come the builders of the new Stalingrad

out to the Volga served the people as shelters during the siege. Here passed the front line, which was held by the divisions of Guryev, Batyuk and Rodimtsev.

Along a narrow footpath one climbs to the top of Mamayev Kurgan, scene of the most bloody fighting—a mound of death and glory. It is criss-crossed with trenches and girdled with barbed-wire entanglements. From here the whole city is visible and the green islands of the Volga, where our artillery was placed, the forests and parks on the other side—and beyond, the bare steppe.

Mamayev Kurgan is the most hallowed place in Stalingrad. From base to summit it is covered with shell and bomb splinters. You can place the palm of your hand anywhere on the ground and be sure of finding six or seven splinters. In this spot the magnetic needle of the compass fails to point to the north.

Once young trees grew on this hill. Now they are gone. The ground is littered with soldiers' spades, helmets, bits of wire and fragments of overcoats and blankets. Sunflowers have grown around a smashed

German tank with a jammed turret; they screen the rusty tracks from view. Two tall ferro-concrete water tanks, built three years before to supply water for gardens, were bastions during the siege. At a particularly tough moment when the attacking Germans had come quite close, our men requested our artillery across the Volga to open fire on their own positions.

The people of Stalingrad are building three huge monuments to the soldiers who lost their lives here. Several girls are busy putting the facings on the obelisks. The foreman, who was wounded during the fighting at Millerovo, spoke to me. "The men who lost their lives here deserve to have golden monuments built to them," he said.

* * *

At the gates of the Red October plant a young girl stands on guard, armed with a rifle. The ruin of the plant is appalling, and yet magnificent. Factory buildings shattered by bombs, powerful iron structures twisted out of shape. In one building lies a German bomber; in another stand two guns beneath a heap of debris.

The workers of the Red October plant now correspond with their friends of the divisions which defended the plant—men now fighting the Germans far from the city; men who remember the Volga and cherish the glorious Stalingrad traditions which live in their banners, songs, decorations and memories. Similarly the workers of Stalingrad remember those who fought for their city.

The Graves of Stalingrad

Walking through Stalingrad's streets and squares, one often sees—amid the greenery of parks and gardens which have survived the siege, in empty spaces, near factory walls, on playgrounds, on the slopes of a ravine or on the bank of the Volga—small wooden pyramids painted red. These are the graves of the heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad.

All is quiet in the Square of the Fallen Heroes, once the busiest spot in Stalingrad. In the little park beside the monument to the 54 heroes of Tsaritsyn—a tall gray obelisk scarred by bullets and shell-splinters—are eleven new graves. The sons are lying beside their fathers . . . both generations having earned immortality.

Despite the early hour several people are already visiting the graves. A 15-year-old lad in a white shirt—one of the youths now rebuilding the city—reads aloud one of the inscriptions: "We did our duty to the end—we did not spare our lives in the fight for Stalingrad. You, too, do your duty—do not surrender our beloved city to the enemy."

The lad's voice falters. "It sends shivers down your spine," he says softly.

Over one of the graves stands a pyramid terminating in a star which serves as a frame for a photograph of a young fair-haired girl with stern gray eyes, wearing a gray sweater. The inscription on the tablet reads: "Here lies Head Nurse Nina Antonovna Legovich, who died heroically in the Battle of Stalingrad, February 1, 1943. During the fighting, working under enemy fire, Nina gave first aid to 18 wounded soldiers and commanders of the 318th Artillery Regiment." This brave girl was killed only one day before the victory.

On another tablet is the following: "Grave of Lieutenant Ivanov, who gave his life that the future generations of Russia might be free. The country will not forget his valor and his name. We will avenge our comrade's death."

Here is the grave of a Spaniard, Guards Lieutenant Ruben Ibaruri, the fearless son of Pasionaria, who commanded a machine-gun company. In the dry rocky soil near the city lies the Nanai hunter, Maxim Passar, a native of the Far North, the best sniper on the Stalingrad Front, who destroyed 236 Hitlerites.

And the steppes of Stalingrad also hold the body of the gallant Chechen youth, Haniosha Nuradinov, who with his machine gun mowed down four German companies; and the old soldier Gaidaichuk, veteran of three wars, who received the Order of St. George from Brusilov himself.

Many were the sacrifices borne by the divisions which fought at Tsaritsa, at the grain-elevator, on the Dargar and in Elshanka, at Voroponovo and in the Kuporosny settlement on the southern heights of Stalingrad. But hardest was the lot of those holding the northern section of the city and barring the way of the Germans' main thrust. On famous Mamayev Kurgan stand monuments to men and officers of Rodimtsev's and Batyuk's divisions. Lower down, nearer the Volga, at the entrance to the Red October plant, is the common grave of the men of the Tarashcha Regiment.

A young man of Stalingrad, Georgi Filipov, assistant commander of a regiment, fell near the Barri-cades plant on the very last day of the Battle of Stalingrad. On that winter day in February when I arrived at the plant after the battle, I found near the open-hearth furnace several of our men lying face down in the snow, clutching their rifles with dead hands. In this way do Russian soldiers die. They fell in the last attack. One hour after their hearts had stopped beating, the din of battle which lasted five months ceased, and calm ensued.

Thousands of young men and experienced soldiers—Ukrainians, Siberians, men from the Urals, Kazakhs and Don Cossacks—laid down their lives in the fierce battle against the German army. In the steppe outside the city and in streets and squares drenched with their blood the wind rustles the leaves of the trees above their graves. Passersby slow their pace and bare their heads in reverence before the graves of these heroes. Their names are covered with everlasting glory.

* * *

It became known from captured documents, as well as from statements of war prisoners that the Germans had planned, in the event of the capture of Stalingrad, to level the city to the ground, so that no trace of it should remain. But the Red Army held Stalingrad. And now the people are bringing it back to life, regenerating it.

On the ground which will forever be associated with glory of the immortal battle, a new Stalingrad is springing up. The miracle of the defense and the miracle of the offensive are being followed by the miracle of the city's restoration. Stalingrad is growing like a city in a fairy-tale, like a young giant. It is the immortal city of our land—the favorite of the people. For in the time of stress it defended the country and stopped the enemy.

Spanish Legionaries on the Eastern Front

By A. Arnoldov

Lately the Franco government of Spain has made statements to the effect that no Spanish troops are at present fighting on the Soviet-German front, that at his orders they had all been withdrawn and returned to Spain. These statements of the Franco government are, however, intended to deceive world public opinion and create the impression that this government honestly maintains neutrality.

At one time the Falangistas bragged of the fact that they were taking an active part in the war against Russia on the side of fascist Germany. Now, however, seeing that the German war machine is cracking under the blows of the Red Army, they are trying to play the innocents, to wash their hands and pretend that they are neutral.

Despite official statements to the contrary, Spanish soldiers continue to fight in Russia side by side with the German-fascist troops. The fascist clique in Spain is merely trying the sharpster trick of one who substitutes one marked card for another. At first it was the "Blue Division" that fought on the Soviet-German front; then it was renamed the 250th Rifle Division, which has since been replaced by a special Spanish Legion.

The ruling clique in Spain formed this so-called "volunteer" legion on the sly, from survivors of the "Blue Division," subsequently renamed the 250th Rifle Division. The legion has been further replenished by replacement battalions that arrived on the Soviet-German front in September and October, 1943, and which are at present fighting on one sector of the Volkhov Front.

Soviet troops have recently taken prisoner a number of soldiers of this legion. The captured Spanish fascists who fought against the Red Army told a story of the metamorphoses that occurred within the Spanish units in Russia. These statements of members of the Spanish Legion fully expose the game of the Spanish Hitlerites, who are continuing overtly and covertly to support the German-fascist invaders.

On one sector of the Volkhov Front, Soviet troops recently took prisoner the Spanish soldiers Otero Garcia Hernandez, chauffeur; Jose Abos Perero, signalman; the company barber, Santiago Inojosa; Alberto Moreno and Antonio Domines. The prisoners

told how their legion had been formed. "Our replacement battalion," says Santiago Inojosa, "numbered thousands of officers and men. Most of the arrivals were drafted, but there were quite a number of volunteers who had previously served in the fascist militia. When we arrived on the Eastern Front we were told that the 250th Spanish Division was being disbanded and a Spanish Legion formed in its place. The legion would consist of three battalions—two infantry and one special. The Falangistas expected to make this a volunteer legion, but nothing came of it. Then the soldiers were made to join the legion by force."

Alberto Moreno stated: "I arrived in Russia with a replacement battalion in the middle of September. At first we were stationed in the town of Yamburg. At that time the battalion had over a thousand men." This same Spanish war prisoner states that at the time he was in Spain the people there learned of Churchill's statement that Britain would support any nation that fought against fascism. This statement made a profound impression upon many Spaniards. The newspapers which mentioned Churchill's statement were immediately confiscated.

The statement of Nicolas Mereul Lopez, another Spanish war prisoner, throws further light on the double game of the Spanish fascists. "In early January, 1944," said Lopez, "I was sent to the 250th Division. There are representatives in this division from every Spanish city. But we never thought we would be sent to Russia and that a special legion had been formed from that division."

The prisoners speak of the brutal regime maintained by the Falangist officers of the legion. The least offense is punished by arrest and sometimes shooting. Private Antonio Domines told of the following case:

One soldier was sent with a report to the commander of the legion. The soldier took advantage of this to complain to the commander about the bad food. When the battalion commander learned of this, he first had the soldier's hair cropped (which is regarded as a sign of disgrace among Spaniards), and then confined him to a solitary cell. "The sentiments of the soldiers of the legion," added Domines, "are far from warlike."

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10th SESSION OF SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR

PRAVDA writes editorially:

On January 28, the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR convened in Moscow. The very agenda of the session—approval of the State budget, reorganization of the People's Commissariat of Defense and the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs from All-Union Commissariats into Union-

Republican Commissariats, the question of the first Vice Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR—indicates the tremendous part which the session is called upon to play in the life of our country. The People's Commissar of Finance, Zverev, and the Chairmen of the Budget Committees of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of the Nationalities, deputies Nikolayeva and Khokhlov, re-



LENINGRAD'S DEFENDERS—Tankmen of the Leningrad Front receive decorations. The tank in the background is famous . . . its crew knocked out eight German panzers

ported to the Supreme Soviet on the State budget for 1944 and on the results of the execution of the budget for the period of 1940-1942.

A picture of the tremendous work accomplished in our country during the war under the leadership of the head of the Soviet State, Stalin, opened before the deputies. The war started by the Hitlerite bandits placed the Soviet State, its economy and finance under the most difficult trials. The successful financing of such a war as the present one has put a strain on all the forces of the country. And our State found in itself sufficient strength to organize a rebuff to the enemy and to inflict heavy defeats on him.

Despite the temporary loss of large territory and the grave destruction caused by the fascist bandits to our national economy, the forces of our country, far from having been exhausted during the war—which was what the enemy counted on—on the contrary increased and grew stronger. Even in wartime conditions the budget of the Soviet State continues to grow and its appropriations for war requirements increase from year to year.

For this year the Government's estimates for war expenditures exceed 128,000,000,000 rubles. The war budget reflects the gigantic reconstruction of our economy to place it on a war footing, and the readiness of the people to devote all their forces to the final defeat of the hateful enemy. The tremendous rise of the national economy and the greatest patriotism of the Soviet people insure the financing of the war.

As in the years of peace, the revenues and accumulations of State enterprises and organizations are

the principal source of the State budget. Our people help their State not only with their heroic labor, but also with their money. The Defense and Red Army Funds, the successful subscriptions to the war loans, and the lotteries have furnished the State with additional tens of billions of rubles for the successful prosecution of the war. Referring to the budget resources for the financing of the front, the People's Commissar of Finance noted the substantial importance of the aid rendered by our Allies in the shape of supplies of armaments, materials and food for the Red Army.

The budget of the great Soviet power earmarks over half its revenues for the prosecution of the war. At the same time, the distinguishing features of our budget are the large appropriations for further development of the national economy and the realization of a vast program of social and cultural construction, for which purposes now in the third year of war the budget earmarks 45,000,000,000 and 51,000,000,000 rubles respectively. The State has granted about 16,000,000,000 rubles for rehabilitation of the economy in the areas liberated from the German invaders.

The budget lays the foundation for further development of our entire socialist economy and culture, and the further consolidation of the military and economic might of our country. The work of the session is illuminated by the salutes of Moscow in honor of our victorious troops, heralding the approach of the day of our complete victory. The State budget of the USSR guarantees the stability of the material basis of this victory.

No More Germans on the Neva

"There are no more Germans on the Neva, and the Moscow-Leningrad railway from Schluesselburg to Tosno has been cleared of them," writes the well-known Soviet author Nikolai Tikhonov, native of Leningrad.

"Along this railway, Klin was burned; the Germans ran wild in the streets of Kalinin; planes swooped on the Bologoe station. Chudovo, Lyuban and Tosno were in fascist hands. The Kolpino suburb of Leningrad became a heroic town; here the workers smashed an SS Division and under incessant artillery fire worked for the front, which passed only three kilometers from it. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet people defended Leningrad amid forests and swamps, under autumn downpours, in freezing cold and in heat.

"The day came when Leningrad citizens were stunned by the gigantic, ever-increasing thunder of guns such as even they—long accustomed to shelling—had never heard. This was the Soviet artillery.

From along the entire arc of the front—on the forward lines, from the depths, from ships, from the Kronstadt Forts—tons of metal smashed the German pillboxes, came down upon blindages, reduced guns to scrap, blew up minefields. The offensive had begun!

"Several days later the long-range guns which had shelled Leningrad were on exhibit in Uritsky Square. Soon the roar of battle was no longer audible in the city. On January 27 the Leningradites learned that the blockade of their city had been completely lifted. Two days later the October railway, connecting Leningrad and Moscow, was completely cleared of the enemy.

"This railway is still pitted with shells, the bridges are still broken up, the stations lie in ruins, tracks and ties have been thrown down the embankments. But the road from Moscow to the shores of the Baltic is free, and soon new tracks will be laid and the people of Leningrad will meet the first through Moscow-Leningrad train."

THE GUERRILLAS OF SOVIET LATVIA

By Ovady Savich

On January 16, 1944, officers and men of one of the Latvian guerrilla detachments were decorated with medals and orders of the Soviet Union. In December, 1942 there were scarcely 70 men in this detachment; now its number has increased more than tenfold. This is not the only Latvian guerrilla detachment; there are many. As a rule they act independently, occasionally joining forces for group operations.

The overwhelming majority of the officers and men of this detachment are Latvians, but there are a few Russians, inhabitants of Latvia, as well as Red Army war prisoners who have escaped from German concentration camps.

Latvians Resist German Mobilization

The vast majority of guerrillas are farmers who took to the forests to avoid military mobilization by the Germans or deportation to Germany. They usually bring their own weapons, which they have hidden or picked up in the fields or forests, or even wrested from the Germans. Often enough a new recruit will bring his whole family. Women frequently become combatants, but in most cases they serve in the supplies department or the ambulance section.

The Germans at Riga tried to form a sapper battalion of Latvians. Of 330 men called up, less than 100 appeared; the others went into hiding. The Germans dispatched a trainload of mobilized men from Daugavpils to Riga. Seventy of them ran away en route. For such refugees there is only one road—to the forest; only one course—to fight in the ranks of the guerrillas.

On the borderline between Latvia and Byelorussia stood a sentry post consisting of 30 mobilized Latvians under a Latvian commander. One fine day the commander removed all the locks from his men's rifles and led them into the forest. He turned over the locks to the guerrillas and said to his men:

"I disarmed you because I was afraid some of you might refuse to go with me."

The men laughed. "And we were afraid you had discovered we were planning to join the guerrillas, and were going to turn us over to the Germans."

Between March 22 and December 5, 1943, the Latvian guerrilla detachments annihilated in battle alone (not counting casualties in railway and road explosions) 911 German men and officers, blew up 72 trains and shot down four Junkers aircraft. Their own losses throughout 1943 were less than 100 men.

In 1943, one detachment of guerrillas took from the Germans 150 tons of rye, eight tons of barley and six tons of oats.

The guerrillas publish five newspapers for the population—four in Latvian and one in Russian. Their contents may be divided into two parts: first, the communiques of the Red Army Command and international news; second, local news reports of guerrilla operations, German crimes and the resistance of the people. In the past eight months the guerrillas have also issued 58 leaflets in a total of 30,000 copies.

Wandering through the forests from district to district and eluding German punitive expeditions, groups of guerrillas have many times found their way into Byelorussia and the Kalinin and Leningrad Regions. Sending out scouts they have established contact with local guerrillas and immediately begun joint operations. Guerrillas of Byelorussia and of the Leningrad and Kalinin Regions have in turn made their way into Latvia to help the People's Avengers there.

Three things explain why the guerrillas have succeeded in kindling the fires of war throughout Latvia. First, the increasing and irrepressible hatred of the people for the Germans. It may be safely said that there is scarcely a place where some anti-fascist organization is not functioning. But this is not all—to the people of Soviet Latvia the guerrilla struggle is a direct expression of their own hatred, their own hopes and their own yearning to expedite the hour of victory.

Guerrilla Tactics Brilliantly Successful

Secondly, guerrilla tactics in Latvia, as everywhere else in occupied regions of the USSR, have brilliantly justified themselves. The guerrillas are elusive and irrepressible. The Germans have not and cannot have forces enough to surround all forests in an impenetrable ring. The forest paths are known only to the guerrillas and to the local population who help them. But the Germans are always exposed. They are, as it were, pinned to the roads and inhabited places.

The third consideration is the triumphant advance of the Red Army. Its arrival is longed for by the entire Latvian people, as the arrival of brothers and liberators. And every explosion, every German killed, every rifle wrested from the tyrants, every kilogram of grain taken away from the robbers, helps to bring nearer the day when the Soviet flag will again wave over the capital of Latvia.

REPORT OF AN ESTONIAN GUERRILLA

By P. Rummo

I hadn't seen this companion of my schooldays for 20 years until I ran into him in the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, during a performance of the ballet *Swan Lake*. On his fur cap he wore a red stripe, and I learned he was an Estonian guerrilla.

Half an hour later we were seated before steaming cups of black coffee. "Try this," said my friend, pushing his tobacco pouch across the table. "It is not very good, like everything made in Germany today. Our tobacco is far better.

"You realize I can't tell you much about our activities. There's little I can say for myself—I'm often clumsy and inexperienced—but some of the fellows in our detachments are real heroes. Did you know ———? I was in his detachment all through the autumn. On September 18 he called his men together and said that according to his information there were several railway trucks at a station, loaded with possessions of peasants which the Germans had seized and intended taking to their country.

"Our comrade divided his men into small parties and set each a definite assignment. Overnight our men damaged that railway line in 96 places.

"On October 21 the Germans sent a strong punitive detachment to sweep the woods. This group outnumbered us ten to one, but we were attacked from several directions and had to fight. We treated the Nazis to such a good dose of steel that they retreated, leaving 24 killed.

"Once we learned several hundred German soldiers were to be shipped from the station. We planned

our attack so well the Germans had no chance for resistance; they scattered, abandoning 93 dead, six battered trucks and railway cars.

"I was sorry to leave this detachment, but I had orders to join one operating in another Estonian district. Just before I arrived, this group blew up an important railway bridge and held up traffic for a couple of days. But the Germans repaired the road, to the chagrin of the guerrillas, who were ready to kick themselves for not being able to prevent it. The German guards were too much on the alert. Then R. said, "That's not the only bridge on the line, is it?" So we struggled across swamps for a couple of days and came upon another bridge, which we destroyed.

"In the middle of November guerrilla detachments derailed one troop train and one munitions train in this district. I also had a hand in this operation.

"You should see how the majority of the Estonian people welcome us," said my companion. "The Germans and their associates call us bandits, but the people of Estonia know we are their friends. Many peasants give us food and shelter at the risk of their lives. The Germans often go hunting for us in the woods; they employ Estonians for this purpose. But they never 'find' a single guerrilla, although they often come very close to our hiding places. There are, of course, exceptions—traitors who betray us—but they are despised by the people.

"The forests of Estonia shelter hundreds and thousands of Estonian men and women who fled to escape mobilization and deportation to Germany. These men and women also swell the ranks of the guerrilla detachments."

BALTIC SPORTSMEN IN RED ARMY

Most of the sportsmen of Soviet Latvia are at the front. One of the most outstanding of them is signalman Ansis Polis, the Riga tennis champion. He was wounded while out on an important battle mission, but is now back in the lines.

Erika Gaile, the young Latvian skier who was placed high in the 1941 championships of the USSR, volunteered for the Red Army and became a sniper. She died a brave death. Arnold Knesis, boxing champion of the Baltic countries, also fell in action. Nikolai Marshinin, the outstanding Latvian fencer, has been awarded the Order of the Red Star and the "For Valor" medal.

The chairman of the sports committee under the

Council of People's Commissars of the Latvian Soviet Republic is the outstanding Latvian skater Peter Strods. He has lived on skates since the age of six. After the outbreak of war he served in the Latvian Guards Division and was wounded in action. This winter he will make his first appearance on the track, after a long absence.

Most of Lithuania's sportsmen are fighting with the Red Army. Several have distinguished themselves. Lieutenant Petrukaitis, the outstanding track star, who excels in long-distance running, has been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, First Degree. One of the best track athletes, Julis Antanas, was killed in action below Orel.



Olga Lauristin, Member, and Johannes Vares, President, of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, greet tankmen of their country, who introduce them to a "winged friend." Olga Lauristin asks: "Couldn't he be sent to Estonia with news of its early liberation?"



Tanks of the column "For Soviet Estonia," built with funds collected by evacuated citizens, are presented to their crews, members of the Estonian Units of the Red Army



After the official presentation of the tank column, President Vares and Hans Kruuse, Professor of the University of Tartu, talk with the commanders of the Unit

Delegates of Polish Corps at Katyn

A PRAVDA correspondent reports:

On Sunday morning, January 30, delegations from units of the First Polish Corps in the USSR came to the Katyn forest to pay a last tribute to their brothers—the Polish officers and men brutally killed by the German hangmen in 1941. Polish soldiers of all arms lined up at the edge of the gigantic 60 by 60 meters grave. Over the grave an affectionate and fraternal hand had made a small mound, put up a tall cross and laid out on the snow with fir-tree branches an inscription in the Polish language: "Glory to the fallen, 1941." A field church altar was erected at the sandy edge of the grave.

An imprint of deep mourning and unconcealed indignation against the Hitlerite murderers was on the faces of the Poles who came here to kneel before the holy remains of the dead. In the file of artillerymen stood the gunner Jakob Moroz, 48, whom I was able to interview before the ceremony began. He was platoon commander of the 83rd Infantry Regiment of the Polish army, and in September, 1939 was taken prisoner by the Red Army and brought to special camp No. Two, located about seven or eight kilometers from Kozi Gory, where he had spent nine months.

"We expected," Moroz said, "after the termination of the war in Europe to return home. We were fully confident of that, and this confidence was supported by humane and kind treatment on the part of the camp administration and guards. We did not regard them as our enemies—it was the Germans whom we regarded as our enemies. On June 12, 1940 I was transferred to another camp. During my stay in this camp there were no shootings, no one was taken anywhere and life took a normal course. I can assure you of this under oath. In February, 1941 I received from this camp a letter from my friend Captain Olszewski, of the 25th Uhlan Regiment, dated January, 1941, in which he stated that himself and all our common acquaintances were alive and in good health and that no changes had occurred in the camp."

Recently Junior Officer Klimczak, of a Sapper Battalion, told his command and comrades that he stayed in a Polish officers' camp in the area of Smolensk up to March, 1941. With indignation he refuted the fantastic invention of the Berlin provocateurs that before the German occupation there allegedly had been executions in this area. The report of the special commission finally dispersed all doubts of the Poles on this subject. The meaning of the German forgery concerning the "Katyn affair" was clear to everyone who had witnessed the actions of the Hitlerites in Poland. Gunner Pasukh, who only recently arrived from occupied Poland, stated that no one there be-

lieved the Hitlerite reports about Katyn and that everyone realized this was a provocational attempt to sow discord between the peoples of Poland and Russia.

At 11:30 A. M. a mass for the dead commenced in an improvised temple over the Katyn grave. All present bared their heads. The front bench was occupied by the Commander of the First Polish Corps in the USSR, Major General Zigmund Berling, and his assistants Major General Swiercewski and Major Zawadski. The band played the *Marche Funebre* of the great Polish composer, Chopin. When the service ended the Corps Chaplain, Frantiszek Kubsz, took off his bright attire and donned the mourning silver-embroidered cape and biretta. Before consecrating the grave he addressed the following sermon to the congregation:

"Citizen General, citizens, officers and soldiers! Today we bow our heads before the tragic grave of our brothers. They valued the honor of the Pole, the honor of the soldier, above everything. They were loyal to the oath they gave, their oath to God and to their country, and fought to the last of their strength. Their fate was not an easy one. But the Pole can not only fight, but also suffer, for a holy cause. They had faith in the overthrow of the fascist enslavers. They believed the Almighty would enlighten the Polish government to find the road to peace and tranquillity through friendship with their great eastern neighbor. The long-coveted day had come. The government had concluded a treaty with the USSR. Still stronger became the longing of the Polish soldiers for their fettered country, for their families, but . . . the gory Hitlerite began his hangman's work. Eleven thousand officers and men, the flower of the Polish army, died in terrible agony. They perished by that very hand which, just one year ago, murdered 5,000 peaceful residents in my parish in the Pinsk Region. Let the spilt Polish blood be a guarantee of the resurrection of our free motherland. Let the Almighty give peace to the souls of the martyrs!"

Colonel Bukoemski gave the command: "Attention!" In solemn silence the priest descended to the grave and sprinkled it with holy water. Five salvos from the guns of the Polish artillery units shattered the winter air. General Berling and Colonel Bukoemski approached the grave and placed the first wreath upon it. Then officers and soldiers placed wreaths from their units with inscriptions on white and black ribbons: "To our comrades-in-arms," "Glory to the memory of the victims of Hitlerite terror in the Katyn forest," "To the martyrs of the people's cause, from officers and soldiers of the Second Regiment," etc.

Then the Corps Commander, General Berling, addressed the delegations of units as follows: "Those

whose memory we honor today fell into the paws of the ruthless enemy—the Germans. There are in Poland dozens of such graves as this. Thousands of people tortured to death by the Hitlerites rest in Polish soil. The brutal enemy—the German—destroys everything that is Polish and strives to make Poland cease to exist and yield her place on the earth to Germany. The graves of Poles killed by the Germans cry for vengeance and we must avenge them. And we will avenge them!"

General Berling saluted the ashes of the fallen. He was followed by Major Zawadski, who recalled the German struggle of a thousand years against the Slav tribes—a struggle filled with treachery and fiendishness—and stated: "The Katyn forest is a fresh German crime against the Slavs. But the Hitlerite provocations have fallen through. No one be-

lieves their forgery. The few Poles in London who supported the Hitlerites' bloody slanders in furtherance of their own predatory intrigues have nothing in common with the Polish people. The Russian people has helped us to establish the truth, and it will help us to carry this truth to Warsaw. Let us wreak vengeance on the enemy until he is utterly destroyed!"

After Zawadski, a short speech was made by Private Adolf Skotnicki, who distinguished himself in fighting against the Germans in the ranks of the Kosciuszko Division. When the meeting was over, delegations of the units, headed by the Corps Command, with lowered banners filed past the grave which calls for vengeance on the Hitlerite hangmen. Over this grave was once more solemnly cemented the fraternity of Polish and Russian arms, poised over the common enemy.

Comments on Katyn Forest Murders

By Konstanin Simonov, Author of *The Russian People*

What I have read about the Katyn enormities committed by the Germans aroused in me feelings of horror and revulsion, but not of surprise. He who has seen the Kerch pit, who has seen in razed Soviet villages scores and hundreds of men and women hanging from trees and gallows, tortured and burned alive, cannot be astonished by any new crime perpetrated by the Nazis.

Not all the horrifying misdeeds of the Germans have yet been unearthed. I am more than convinced that in Russia and in all countries of Europe this year and the next, new monstrous crimes of the Germans committed in the dark of night will come to light.

The tragedy of Katyn forest is not cause for astonishment. It is only another cause for hatred—hatred of the Germans, which is the duty of every Slav, be he Russian, Pole or Czech.

By Academician Boris Keller

A special feature of this crime is that the German fascists tried to ascribe it to the Soviet people. But this foul lie was so clumsy and foolish it could gain no credence with a single honest man in the entire world. It has now been completely refuted by documents and an impartial investigation of the case. It was apparently intended to support the treacherous game of political swindlers for whom the unbelievable sufferings of the Polish people in German-fascist slavery meant nothing at all.

Those Poles who really love their country and their people should learn once more from the Katyn mur-

ders that they can take vengeance on Hitler Germany for all the horrible torments of their people only if they enter into a fraternal alliance with our country; in this way they will forever knock out of the Germans the desire to violate the liberty of Poland.

By Academician R. Viller

The criminal who feels the hour of reckoning approaching will do anything to improve his position. He will most probably try to shift the blame onto others. This is the method adopted by the Nazis, those experts in the art of swindling. Frightened and stunned by the unexpected growth of the Soviet Union's fighting power, the Goebbels' lie factory decided to sow discord among the Allies by ascribing to the Russians the slaughter of Polish war prisoners perpetrated by the Germans in the Katyn forest. The aim of the Nazis was obvious: first, to cover up their heinous crime, and second, to set the Russians and Poles at odds.

A clamorous campaign was started in Berlin, and certain suspicious characters called "delegates" made excursions to the Katyn graves. The Germans published a special book of material fabricated by them. But even then no sensible, honest man believed the Nazis. It was an obvious frame-up. The subsequent course of events showed that the people who purposely sided with the Berlin liars got nothing for their pains. The campaign of calumny against the Soviet Union failed.

The mass murder of Polish war prisoners by the Nazis has been brought to light. In the near future the criminals will be punished for their monstrous deed.

Gruesome Regime in Finnish Camps for Soviet War Prisoners

By Captain I. Golubtsov

Russian war prisoners in Finnish concentration camps are being subjected to ghastly tortures. This is testified to by Finnish soldiers and officers taken prisoner by the Red Army, and by Russian soldiers who managed to escape from Finnish concentration camps.

Finnish machine-gunner Hustul Yarvi Alexander, Third Platoon, First Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, Sixth Infantry Division, was quite recently a guard at the Petrozavodsk camp for war prisoners. He knows the routine of the camp well. "In this camp Red Army men weakened by hunger were dragged from the barracks and left on the snow in the street," he states. "There they froze to death. On his back each war prisoner in the camp wears a large 'V.' This stands for 'Vanka,' as war prisoners are called. Worked to the bone, the Red Army men were shot when they collapsed of exhaustion or hunger. Murderous beatings are systematically administered to war prisoners in all camps without exception. I never participated in this," insisted Hustul, attempting to exonerate himself. "But with my own eyes I saw a Schutz Korps man beat a prisoner to death only because he was not strong enough to lift a heavy rail. My friend, Ensign Mustonen, who served as a guard in Praask camp, told me that there too prisoners died or were shot after having been beaten. He saw two prisoners shot for no offense."

Hustul's testimony is confirmed by another prisoner, Alberg Andre Gunnar, a Finnish private of the Fourth Platoon, Ninth Company, Third Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, 18th Infantry Division. "On many occasions," Gunnar said, "Red Army prisoners are beaten by their Finnish guards. I saw them after work, trudging through the streets of Petrozavodsk, barely strong enough to keep going. When one of them fell he was cruelly kicked or beaten with rifle butts."

Finnish soldier Vitanean Yukha tells the following about the Vyborg camp for war prisoners: "The Russian prisoners live in terrible conditions. Several of them die from hunger every day. They eat anything they can get—cats, crows . . ."

Red Army man Terentyev, who escaped from a camp

near the town of Pytkyrant, where he experienced the horrors of Finnish captivity, told the following in a trembling voice: "Only soup, muddy soup, was given us daily. Even the sick and wounded were compelled to work. Unbearable labor has worn many of our people to the bone. When tired and helpless they are regarded as legitimate prey by Schutz Korps men. I remember three Red Army men who were too weak to work. They could barely stand. By order of the administrators of the camp they were laid out on boards in front of us all and beaten to a bloody mass. They were thrown into a cellar, where they died. The ghastly torture and murder of war prisoners in the Pytkyrant camp has become a sort of recreation for the Finnish hangmen. Having picked a victim, Finnish soldiers tie the prisoner with barbed wire and drag him along the ground until he has been torn limb from limb."

Thus do the Finns treat war prisoners everywhere. At Lakhtinsk camp, prisoners too weak to move are shot by the guards. At Mustio camp exhausted prisoners are being beaten to death "for having failed to fulfil their labor quotas." In Tomitsk camp No. 5, Finnish soldiers set a pack of dogs on two Red Army prisoners. Severely mauled, the two were then shot.

In the concentration camp near Olonets (Olonets District), Red Army prisoners of war are being starved to death. Scores of them die from hunger here every day.

Every cross-examination by the Finns is accompanied by torture. This too, is attested by Finnish soldiers and officers, by documentary evidence and affidavits of medical experts. Lieutenant Rekola Reino, of the Finnish Army, taken prisoner in the district of Belozersk, declared: "Unless we have special orders to bring a prisoner to headquarters, we cross-examine and then kill him." Finnish soldier Kanunen (Svir District) testified: "Once our unit captured five wounded Red Army men. After a time we saw all five of them dead in the forest. They had been shot."

What do these gruesome facts show? They illustrate the determination of the Finns to annihilate all Soviet war prisoners, systematically and according to plan.

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Molotov's Report to Supreme Soviet of USSR

On the transformation of the People's Commissariat of Defense and the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs from Union People's Commissariats into Union-Republican People's Commissariats. Report of Vyacheslav M. Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on February 1, 1944.

Comrades Deputies:

The question of the transformation of two People's Commissariats—the People's Commissariat of Defense and the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs—from Union into Union-Republican People's Commissariats has been posed before the Supreme Soviet.

The Council of People's Commissars believes that this question is quite ripe. This is not a matter of the ordinary reorganization of two People's Commissariats. This is primarily a matter of placing new and most responsible tasks before the Union Republics. The question has been posed of new tasks and rights of Union Republics, firstly in the matter of the defense of our country, and secondly in the sphere of external relations with foreign states, and in this connection, of important transformations in our Union State.

Heretofore the Union Republics took part in the common work of creation of the organization and equipment of the Red Army. Our Army was created as an All-Union Army, and there existed no separate army formations of the Republics. Now it is proposed to institute army formations of Republics, which should form component parts of the Red Army. In this connection there arises the need for the creation of People's Commissariats of Defense in the Union Republics, as well as the necessity of the transformation of the Union People's Commissariat of Defense into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

After the foundation of the Union of Soviet Republics in 1922, foreign political relations were wholly concentrated in the Union People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, to which individual Republics delegated their powers in foreign relations. Now the Government of the Union proposes that Union Republics be granted powers to enter into direct relations with foreign states and conclude agreements with them. Naturally, the granting of powers to the Republics in the sphere of foreign relations renders it necessary to create People's Commissariats of Foreign Affairs in the Union Republics and to transform the Union People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

The meaning of the proposed transformation is perfectly clear. This transformation signifies the great expansion of activities of the Union Republics which has become possible as a result of their political, economic and cultural growth, or, in other words, as a result of their national development. One cannot fail to see in this a new, important step in the practical solution of the national problem in the multi-national Soviet State, one cannot fail to see in this a new victory for our Lenin-Stalin national policy.



Vyacheslav M. Molotov

This transformation, however, has become possible not merely as a result of the strengthening of our Republics. It has become possible as a result of the achieved strengthening of our Union State as a whole. The strengthening of the Soviet Union that has taken place is most convincingly proved by the

manner in which our Red Army, which bears the whole brunt of the struggle with the main forces of the most dangerous enemy, is beating the German-fascist army and successfully brings nearer the time of the complete expulsion of the enemy from Soviet territory and his utter defeat.

Now it is more than obvious how scandalously the enemy's calculations on the Red Army's defeat fell through and how nearsighted were the Hitlerites' calculations on causing disunity among the peoples of the Soviet Union. Our Army, which was joined by millions of people from all the nations in the Soviet Union and which receives such invaluable help from our guerrillas in the enemy's rear, proves more and more successfully with every day how strong our country has become, how powerful the Soviet system is, how great the friendship of the Soviet peoples is.

The present proposal on the transformations in the organization of defense and in foreign relations, providing for a great expansion of the functions of the Union Republics, should serve as a new confirmation of our confidence in the strength and growth of the forces of the Soviet Union. This confidence is demonstrated all the more forcefully that we propose to effect these transformations at the height of a Patriotic War, when the forces of our peoples are strained so greatly and when not every state would venture to undertake such important transformations.

I

Transformation of the People's Commissariat of Defense.

I proceed to the question of the transformation of the People's Commissariat of Defense. It is proposed by the draft of the law to establish that the Union Republics organize army formations of the Republics, and that the People's Commissariat of Defense is transformed from a Union into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat. It is proposed accordingly to make the necessary addenda to the All-Union Constitution.

Now, too, we have national army formations in the Red Army. Our Army has Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, Georgian, Azerbaijani, Armenian, Kazakh and certain other army formations. Some of these army units were created during the Patriotic War. Now that all the peoples of the Soviet Union strive to take their place in the ranks of the Red Army, creation of army formations of the Republics is of great importance to us. As is well known, in Tsarist Russia certain nationalities and peoples were not conscripted for military service. For instance, the Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Tajiks, Turkmenians, Kirghizians, and most of the peoples of the Northern Caucasus, also peoples of the North, were not subject to

conscription. Tsarism, naturally, did not trust peoples which it kept in a colonial or semi-colonial status. The Tsarist power even did not do anything to prepare these peoples for gradual induction into the army.

In the Soviet time, the situation has changed radically. The legislation naturally contains no legal restrictions for some or other nationalities as regards conscription. But a certain time had to pass in order to render possible actual realization of conscriptions to the Red Army in all parts of the Soviet Union. Partial conscriptions to the Red Army were carried out in past years even in those districts of the USSR where no conscriptions took place in old times. National army units were formed in the Red Army as well, but up to recent time these formations could not really develop. Now the situation has changed for the better. Adequate possibilities have been created for army formations in the Union Republics. All the Republics have not only cadres of rank and file fighters, but also certain cadres of commanding personnel capable of directing respective army units. Thus at present the creation of army formations in the Union Republics can be placed on a firm foundation.

But to realize this task it is necessary to have Republican People's Commissariats of Defense, and consequently there arises the necessity of the transformation of the Union People's Commissariat of Defense into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat. It is to be expected that this will also increase the attention paid by the Republics to the organization of military training in schools and institutions of higher education, of which we stand in need. Under such conditions, the creation of army formations in the Republics as component parts of the Red Army will play a not insignificant, positive part.

How will this affect our Red Army? Will this contribute to its strengthening, to the growth of its might? Yes, this is beyond any doubt. Our Army has always been close to and cherished by the peoples of the Soviet Union. In the course of the Patriotic War, still stronger became the love of the peoples of the USSR for their Army, still stronger and more universal became the pride of the Soviet people in the successes and heroism of the Red Army. Indeed, who fails to see what a glorious struggle is waged by our Army for the liberation of the Ukraine, for the liberation of Byelorussia? Who fails to appreciate whole-heartedly what the Red Army does to prepare the imminent liberation of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia and the Karelo-Finnish Republic? Who fails to remember that Soviet troops saved Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia from the invasion of German fascism? Who of our Soviet people does not glorify our Army for having defended our Capital—Moscow, for having routed the Germans at Stalin-

and launched an offensive along the whole front, having defended Leningrad and fully lifted the blockade from it, and for now chasing the enemy from the native soil without giving him any respite? Who, save those plagued by fascism, fails to understand now that the Red Army fulfils a mission of liberation not only with regard to its own fatherland, but also with regard to all democratic countries which fight for their honor, freedom and independence against the mortal danger presented by fascism?

Who further does not know that the men and women workers of our mills and factories, that the men and women peasants on the collective farms, that our intelligentsia, that all the Soviet people, are ready to give all their strength to enhance the might of the Red Army, that by their self-sacrificing labor they discharge by actual deeds their duty to the fatherland, to the heroic Red Army?

The formation of army units of the Republics would serve to strengthen further our Army as the defender of our country, as the reliable bulwark of the Soviet Union. The enemies of the Soviet Union need not doubt that as a result of these new army formations the forces of our State will grow still stronger. This will make them more cautious in the future.

This new embodiment of the growing friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union will contribute to the further growth of the prestige of our country with the nations of the East and West.

II

Transformation of People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs.

Of no lesser significance is the transformation of the All-Union People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat. Before the foundation of the Soviet Union, along with the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic there existed People's Commissariats of Foreign Affairs in the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which on certain occasions maintained foreign relations with other states. During the early period when our State was not yet gathered into one Union State, but consisted of separate parts, a number of treaties and agreements were concluded between individual Soviet Republics and foreign states. On some occasions representatives of the Russian SFSR were specially authorized by other Soviet Republics to participate in international conferences and to conclude treaties with other states on behalf of all or several Soviet Republics.

Comrade Stalin said at the first All-Union Congress of Soviets that "at that time the Soviet Republics, although they acted together, marched separately, occupied primarily by the problem of their existence." That was inevitable at the initial stage. When the USSR was founded in accordance with the common will of the Union Republics, it was decided to unify relations with foreign states in one center. Then was created the All-Union People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, in which were vested the powers of the People's Commissariats of Foreign Affairs of the separate Soviet Republics. Since then, up to our days, the Soviet State was represented abroad through All-Union diplomatic representatives. Treaties and agreements with foreign states were also concluded only on behalf of the Union. This was necessary at a certain stage of the development of our State and yielded its positive results by having strengthened the State and highly enhanced its part in international affairs. But even then, as far back as at the Party Congress in 1923, Comrade Stalin said: "We shall still take up the national question more than once, since national and international conditions are subject to changes and may still change. I do not preclude the possibility that subsequently we may have to separate certain commissariats which we are now merging in the Union of Republics . . ."

Being the best authority on the national question, not only in our Party and not only in our country, Comrade Stalin, who together with the great Lenin laid the foundation of the Soviet Union, pointed out even then that changes in the international situation and the national development would more than once call forth organizational changes in the machine of the Soviet State. No other state of affairs can be imagined, especially in such a young and rapidly gaining strength organism as the Soviet Union is.

Now the question of the foreign relations of the Union Republics stands differently from the way it stood two decades ago when the Soviet Union was being founded. It grew out of the vital needs of the Republics and its solution is dictated by the interests of the Union as a whole. The time is long past when certain foreign states tried not to notice the existence of the Soviet Republic born in the October Revolution. Now, on the contrary, among foreign states there is a growing desire to establish and develop diplomatic relations with our State.

Certainly under conditions of World War this meets with peculiar, not insignificant difficulties, but still even in the years of war the international connections of the USSR have been steadily extending. One may even say that it was just in the years of the war that the international connections of the Soviet Union have risen to a new and higher level. The facts are universally known. For the first time during the existence of Soviet power, we have established

not only friendly but even allied relations with Great Britain. Similar good relations have been formed between us and the United States of America. A powerful anti-Hitler coalition has been formed, headed by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, a coalition whose military and political importance for the whole range of democratic states can hardly be overestimated. The recently concluded Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty may serve as an example of the strengthening of friendly relations of the Soviet Union with European states. The foundations have been laid for the cooperation of large and small democratic countries, not only in time of war against a common enemy, but also in the postwar period for the sake of safeguarding peace against new encroachments on the part of aggressive powers.

As is well known, the Moscow and Teheran Conferences played a most eminent part in the development and strengthening of the anti-Hitler coalition. Now as never before, great is the confidence of the peoples of the anti-Hitler camp in near and complete victory, in joint crushing blows of the Allies at the common enemy, which are already not distant, as well as confidence that the alliance and friendship of the anti-fascist countries will be steered in this common struggle.

And still it cannot be said that this general positive course of development of the international connections of the Soviet Union could fully cover not only the requirements of the whole Union but also the multifarious and growing requirements of the Union Republics in foreign affairs. Thus the Union Republics have quite a few specific economic and cultural requirements which cannot be covered in full measure by All-Union representation abroad and also by treaties and agreements of the Union with other states. These national requirements of the Republics can be met better by means of direct relations of the Republics with the corresponding states. Naturally, questions of this kind require special concrete elaboration in Union and Republican organs. It cannot be denied either that a certain time will be required to organize these external activities of the Republics. Such questions are not solved after a cut and dried pattern. It is indisputable, however, that the problem of emerging into the arena of external activities has already acquired vital importance for a number of Republics.

Lastly, it should be acknowledged that this is in the interests not only of this or that individual Union Republic, but also in the interests of the entire cause of the expansion of international connections and the strengthening of the cooperation of the USSR with other states, which is of such importance in time of war and which will yield fruit also in the postwar period.

Such are the grounds on which the necessity of the transformation of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs from a Union into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat should be recognized. Whereas in the initial period there existed only Republican People's Commissariats of Foreign Affairs, and in the second period only a Union Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, now the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs should be transformed into a more complex and ramified organization—into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

It remains for me to add a few words on our diplomatic practice. It is necessary to note that the absence of special provisions in the Soviet Constitution as regards the rights of Union Republics to exchange of representations with other states and to the maintenance of foreign relations, is sometimes interpreted to the direct detriment of the interests of the Soviet Republics and of the Soviet Union as a whole. The proposed addition will serve to eliminate facts of this kind.

III

New Forward Stride in Solution of National Problem.

The proposed transformation of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat of Defense is a new forward stride in the solution of the national problem in the Soviet Union. This transformation is in direct accord with the principles of our Lenin-Stalin national policy. The realization of measures of this kind at the present time means that the Soviet State has reached a new level in its development, turning into a more complex and virile organism. In this one cannot fail to see fresh evidence of the great significance of the socialist principles of the organization of the Soviet Union.

In his report to the Congress of Soviets which adopted the Constitution of the USSR in 1936, Comrade Stalin thus characterized the victory of the national policy of the Soviet power which insured the success of the formation of a multi-national state on the basis of socialism:

"The absence of exploiting classes which are the principal organizers of strife between nations; the absence of exploitation which cultivates mutual distrust and kindles nationalist passions; the fact that power is in the hands of the working class which is the foe of all enslavement and the true vehicle of the ideas of internationalism; the actual practice of mutual aid among the peoples in all spheres of economic and social life; and finally, the flourishing national culture of the peoples of the USSR, a culture which is national in form and socialist in content—all these

and similar factors have brought about a radical change in the aspect of the peoples of the USSR; their feeling of mutual distrust has disappeared, a feeling of mutual friendship has developed among them, and thus real fraternal cooperation among the peoples has been established within the system of a single Union State. As a result, we now have a fully-formed multi-national socialist State which has stood all tests and whose stability might well be envied by any national state in any part of the world."

Seven years—and what years!—have passed since then. Soon it will be three years that we have been waging the great Patriotic War against German fascism and its allies, which use the material and manpower resources of nearly the whole of Europe in their struggle against the Soviet Union. This has been a new—and the most serious at that—test for our multi-national State. But the Soviet Union has passed this test, too, with flying colors.

On the 26th anniversary of the October Revolution, Comrade Stalin thus summed up the latest period:

"All the peoples of the Soviet Union have risen as one to defend their motherland, rightly considering the present Patriotic War the common cause of all working people, irrespective of nationality or religion. By now the Hitlerite politicians have themselves seen how hopelessly stupid were their hopes of discord and strife among the peoples of the Soviet Union. The friendship of the peoples of our country has withstood all hardships and trials of war and has become tempered still further in the common struggle of all Soviet people against the fascist invaders."

This—in Comrade Stalin's words—is one of the decisive sources of the strength of the Soviet Union.

Let us sum up. Carrying out under the present conditions important State transformations, we must of course pose the question of how this will affect the Red Army and its deep rear in the country. In other words, are we making a step toward the strengthening or toward the weakening of the USSR?

Everything said above permits to give a definite answer to this question. The transformation of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs and the People's Commissariat of Defense which follows from the expansion of the tasks and functions of the Union Republics within the country and beyond its confines, far from running counter to the interests of the strengthening of our Union, on the contrary is being effected in the name of and for the purpose of the further strengthening of our great State.

Since the time when the Soviet Union was founded, the Constitution has insured to the Union Republics

such a supreme expression of their sovereign rights as the right of free secession from the USSR. But as time passes the stronger becomes the desire of the peoples of the Soviet Union to live in close friendship among themselves, to help one another and to march together through all trials under the guidance of Soviet power.

The recognition by the Union of the increased requirements of the Republics in their state activities, including foreign activities, and legislative provision for these needs of the Republics, only serve to strengthen the fraternal relations among the peoples of our country and reveal still more fully the historic meaning of the existence of the Soviet Union to the peoples of the East and West.

It should be recognized further that the new forward stride in the solution of the national problem in the USSR is of great importance from the viewpoint of all progressive humanity. At a time when German fascism—this worst product of imperialism!—has reared its head and unleashed a World War to strangle its neighbors, to destroy free states and impose its bandit imperialist policy upon other peoples of Europe, and after that upon the peoples of the whole world—the new success in the realization of the Lenin-Stalin national policy in the Soviet State will have especially great international significance. This step of the Soviet power will constitute a new moral-political blow at fascism and its man-hating policy, hostile to its core to the interest of the free national development of peoples.

The Soviet Union and its Allies are already successfully beating fascism, which imposed this war, hastening the time of its utter military defeat. But we know that matters should not be restricted to the military defeat of the fascist forces. It is necessary to bring to completion the moral-political defeat of fascism as well. To this, we are certain, will successfully contribute those State transformations in the Soviet Union which are now submitted for your approval.

I express assurance that the Supreme Soviet will demonstrate the unanimity of the Soviet people in the solution of the question of the proposed State transformations.

Kazakhstan Agriculture Extended

Soviet geographers and soil students are concentrating on the extension of agricultural and industrial zones in the East. In Kazakhstan alone an expanse of 50,000,000 acres of arable land has been charted, 12,500,000 of which have already been brought under cultivation, and possibilities revealed for the rapid extension of areas suitable for cereals, sugar beet and other crops.

PRAVDA ON THE 10th SESSION OF SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR

PRAVDA writes editorially:

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR has adopted two new laws on the transformation of the People's Commissariat of Defense and the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs from Union People's Commissariats into Union-Republican People's Commissariats. These transformations signify the great expansion of the activities of the Union Republics, which has become possible as a result of their political, economic and cultural growth, i. e., their national development, and in the first place, as a result of the strengthening of our Union as a whole.

At the same time, as Vice Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR Molotov said in his report in this connection, in the expansion of the rights and tasks of the Union Republics "one cannot fail to see a new victory for our Lenin-Stalin national policy."

The enemy expectations of causing disunity among the peoples of our country and the defeat of the Red Army, suffered complete collapse. The Red Army is flesh of the flesh of the peoples of the Soviet Union. In Tsarist Russia there were peoples, step-children, to whom Tsarism barred entry to the army. In the Soviet time the high honor of the defense of the motherland is granted to all the peoples of our great country. In addition to the fact that millions of men of all the peoples of the Soviet Union have joined our army, we now have national army formations. At present a new forward stride has been made on this path. There can be no doubt that the institution of army formations of the Union Republics will serve the further strengthening of the Red Army's might. Every Union Republic will hold it a point of honor to strengthen it.

"The enemies of the Soviet Union need not doubt that as a result of these new army formations the forces of our State will grow still stronger. This will make them more cautious in the future." (Molotov).

The expansion of the rights of the Union Republics in the sphere of foreign relations is dictated both by the direct interests of these Republics and the interests of the entire Union State. This necessity arose now in connection with the changed international situation of the Soviet Union. The desire for the establishment and development of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union becomes increasingly strong among foreign states. The international connections of the USSR are steadfastly expanding, they

have consolidated and strengthened even under the difficult conditions of war.

It is sufficient to point out the existence of not only friendly but also allied relations with Great Britain, and the good relations which are established between us and the United States. The formation and growing stability of the anti-Hitler coalition headed by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States, which has the greatest military and political importance for all democratic states, is also evidence of the strengthening of the international position of the USSR.

The recently signed Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty, in its turn, represents an example of strengthened friendly relations between the USSR and European states.

The foundation has also been laid for lasting and fruitful cooperation in the postwar period. This is testified to by the results of the Moscow and Teheran Conferences, which gave the freedom-loving peoples assurance that the time is not distant when under the joint crushing blows of the Allies the enemy will be defeated, and that the common victory over the enemy will still more consolidate the alliance and friendship of the anti-fascist countries.

But just in virtue of this, we need a more complex and ramified organization than the Union People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs. The Union Republics have quite a few specific economic and cultural requirements which it will be more easy and simple to satisfy through direct relations between these Republics and foreign states.

The expansion of the rights of the Union Republics is of the greatest international importance, since the new success in the realization of the Lenin-Stalin national policy in our State deals the gravest moral-political blow to fascism, to its man-hating policy so thoroughly hostile to the interests of the free national development of peoples.

To attain final victory over fascism, the military defeat of the Hitlerite army alone is insufficient; what is also needed is the complete moral-political defeat of fascism.

The new measure of the Soviet State undoubtedly presents a most valuable contribution to this struggle of the freedom-loving peoples against bloody Hitlerism.

REPORTS OF DEPUTIES TO 10th SESSION

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian SFSR, Kossygin

"Of the sum total of expenditures planned in the Republic for the current year," stated Kossygin, "more than two-thirds will constitute expenditures for financing social and cultural measures. In 1944 more than 9,000,000,000 rubles will be spent for public education as against 5,900,000,000 rubles last year. Expenditures in health protection are also increased by 800,000,000 rubles. In the RSFSR, 2,425 schools will be opened, while enrollment in elementary and secondary schools will increase by 2,700,000."

Speaking of the solicitude of the Government for the growing generation, Kossygin stated that during the war the network of children's homes in the Republic and the number of children in them had almost doubled. By the end of 1943 there were about 1,100,000 children being taken care of in kindergar-

tens. Furthermore, millions of children were cared for in nurseries and in summer camps. In 1944 the number of places in children's institutions will be increased by 190,000.

Citing a number of figures to indicate the growth of health protection in the Republic, Kossygin continued: "In past wars in Tsarist Russia and other countries epidemics were unavoidable accompaniments of war; they took a toll of millions of lives. In the Soviet country we can record the absence of epidemics and reduction of infectious diseases rate. This has been achieved as a result of the growth of the culture of our people and the extensive prophylactic measures taken by the State."

Further, Kossygin spoke at length on the most important tasks of the rehabilitation of the economy in districts liberated from German occupation. Thanks to the heroism of the Soviet people and the enormous aid rendered by the Government, dwellings totaling



ON THE CENTRAL FRONT—Red Army troops advance on an enemy strongpoint

millions of square meters of floor space, water works, many power-stations, and hundreds of enterprises of food, light and other industries, have already been restored in the liberated regions of the RSFSR. Twenty-three thousand eight hundred and five schools with an enrollment of 2,800,000 have already resumed work. By the end of 1943, hospitals accommodating 52,000 patients, and 4,000 medical stations staffed by doctors, assistants, etc., were already functioning in these regions.

The rapid rate of restoration work will enable enterprises of regional and district importance and the handicraft cooperatives to produce in 1944 more than 1,100,000,000 rubles worth of goods. Kossygin also stated that appropriations of the 1944 budget for public utilities and improvement of towns were increased by 57 per cent.

Deputy Korniets, of the Ukrainian SSR

"The liberation of the Ukraine from the yoke of the German invaders developed successfully in 1943. Soon all the Ukraine, all the Soviet land, will be cleared of the German-fascist vermin. The entire Ukrainian people will again begin to live a free happy life in the family of fraternal peoples of the great Soviet Union.

"The grave trials which fell to the lot of the Ukrainian people failed to break its will to struggle against the hateful enemy. The bloody fascist regime with its accomplices—the pitiable handful of traitors to the Ukrainian people, the Ukrainian-German nationalists—proved powerless to force the Ukrainian people to its knees. Not for a single minute did the Ukrainian people cease its struggle against the base invaders.

"Retreating under the blows of the Red Army the fascist hordes are perpetrating monstrous crimes, committing towns and villages to fire and destruction. The great leader and strategist Stalin has called upon the peoples of our motherland to liquidate the consequences of the German occupation within the shortest time.

"The Bolshevik Party, the Soviet Government and the working people of the fraternal Republics show exceptional solicitude and render practical aid to the liberated districts. The working people of the Urals, Siberia, Moscow, Tbilisi and of the towns and villages are sending trainloads of equipment, spare parts, building material, agricultural machinery and cattle to the Ukraine. The Ukrainian people has begun extensive work on the restoration of Ukrainian industry and agriculture. But what has been done is only a beginning. The State budget of the Ukrainian Republic allocated about 1,000,000,000 rubles for the

rehabilitation of the national economy of the regions of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper, and about 2,000,000,000 rubles for social and cultural measures. In addition tremendous funds are appropriated for this purpose in the Union budget. These appropriations will enable us to launch large-scale production for the front, as well as of general commodities, in 1944.

"After consideration of the draft budget the question arose in the Union Government of allocation of funds for the newly-created People's Commissariat of Dwellings and the Civil Construction of the Ukraine, for restoration of liberated towns and villages, for which purpose 170,000,000 rubles are earmarked. I request that the session include this sum in the State budget of the Ukraine for 1944."

Deputy Maslennikova, of the Kursk Region

At the recent session of the Soviet of Nationalities, Deputy Maslennikova spoke of the monstrous destruction and atrocities perpetrated by the German-fascist invaders during the temporary occupation of the Kursk Region. Forty thousand young boys and girls of Kursk are languishing in penal servitude in Germany. Twenty-five thousand people have been shot or tortured to death by the Hitlerites.

The German invaders destroyed 3,030 industrial enterprises, 500 schools, 373 medical institutions, and some 2,000 libraries, clubs and movie houses in the Region. They caused tremendous damage to agriculture by destroying the buildings of the machine and tractor stations of the collective and State farms, and by cutting down about 20,000 hectares of orchards. They burned or demolished 100,000 houses, leaving over 300,000 people without shelter.

The working people of the Kursk Region (said Maslennikova) will never forget that despite wartime difficulties the entire country rendered support to the Region and sent it cattle, machines, industrial goods and foodstuffs. Thanks to the aid of the Soviet Government, over 47,000 buildings have been erected and more than 200,000 collective farmers have moved into new cottages. Schools started functioning within one month after the liberation of the Region. About 17,000 orphaned children have been accommodated in children's homes or adopted by families. Nine special children's homes have been organized, and children's nurseries and dining rooms opened in the Region.

Enthusiastically supporting the appropriation of 128,400,000,000 rubles for defense, Maslennikova declared that the working people of the Kursk Region will know no peace so long as one Hitlerite murderer remains unpunished.

LENINGRAD WAS NEVER INVADED

"The Germans and Finns loudly proclaimed time after time that Leningrad would soon be destroyed," comments Academician Eugene Tarle, Soviet historian. "Very recently Hitler's contemptible lackeys wrote in the Finnish papers that it was possible Leningrad would not be captured—but it certainly would be destroyed. But Stalin's Army disposed otherwise—the great city has been saved.

"It may be boldly stated that now—in the third century of its historic existence—Petersburg-Leningrad has experienced the greatest triumph that could fall to any city. Petersburg-Leningrad is the only European capital which has never in all its history been invaded by foreign troops. During the present war it endured many hard and terrible days, but it resisted heroically and lived to see deliverance and victory. . . .

"Our triumph is unquestionably great and stirring. It will sound as a call to arms for Europe, tormented by the German scoundrels. In the German robbers' den it will sound as a knell, announcing their early destruction."

"Our Troops Are Advancing!"

"The Leningrad suburbs of Peterhof, Uritsk and Strelnya have again become Soviet," writes Ivan Bondarenko. "The 85 heavy long-range guns which shelled Leningrad have been seized by Soviet forces, along with many fascist gunners—the murderers who operated the big cannon. How miserable these 'conquerors' of Leningrad appear now!

"Our citizens walk the streets with proudly raised heads. Everyone is smiling—the professor who leaves the public library, the chauffeur who stands at his army vehicle, the bootblack on the corner, the militiaman at the intersection and the preacher who hurries to his church to deliver a sermon in honor of the latest Red Army victory. Thousands of people, thousands of smiles, thousands of eyes shining with happiness.

"'Our troops are advancing!' Practically everyone in Leningrad is today repeating these words. Happiness and hope, sad reminiscences of the past and bright images of the future, satisfaction and triumph, are all mingled in this brief phrase.

"I happened to be in a Leningrad factory in the evening hours of January 18. The high walls of this huge building and its long windows were plunged in darkness. Shaded lamps hung very low over each lathe. The hands of women workers moved skilfully and rapidly in the center of the bright light. Activity in the shop was intense; faces were beaming.

"When the evening shadows fall, the Nevsky is again quiet, severe and alert. It is dark on Nevsky Pros-

pekt, but automobiles with squinting headlights and dimly-lighted streetcars hurry up and down the famous thoroughfare. Endless dots of tiny house lamps disappear in the distance and flashlights of pedestrians twinkle along the sidewalks. Loudspeakers in the streets announce the farther advance of Soviet forces, and a broadcast of gun salvos from Moscow salutes the victors."



Along Nevsky Prospekt, main thoroughfare of Leningrad

Triumph of Collective Labor in Don Region

The Germans have wrought havoc in the agricultural regions, but they failed to smash the foundation upon which the collective farms rest. Collective labor, the mighty force of the collective farmers, triumphed over the dark forces of destruction.

A year has elapsed since the January days of 1943, when the retreating Germans razed to the ground the flourishing village of Kameni on the Don, shot or burned alive several hundred Red Army men who had been taken prisoner, and 40 village people.

Village Symbolizes Restoration

During this year the collective farmers have built new cottages, sheds and other structures. The restoration of Kameni village is a symbol of the reestablishment of collective farm life in one of the most prosperous Don areas—the Mechetinski District. At a recent session of the Mechetinski District Soviet, some interesting facts were quoted. Before the war the district was primarily a grain-growing locality; the grain harvest was approximately 60,000 tons a year,

and a yield of 16 to 18 centners of grain per hectare was more or less common on collective and State farms of the district. The collective farms were proud of their herds of cattle. Each year the farms supplied the State with three and one-half to four million liters of milk, 3,500 tons of meat and some of the best wool. The sown acreage amounted to 58,000 to 60,000 hectares. The district had the largest number of stud farms on the Don.

The German invaders inflicted exceptionally heavy damage to the economy of the district. During their occupation the Germans burned down or otherwise destroyed 332 enterprises, 45 public buildings, 46 schools, three hospitals, a machine and tractor station, three mills and 450 dwellings. They slaughtered or seized 3,200 horses, 5,500 head of cattle and over 12,000 sheep, and devoured nearly all the poultry.

Great hardships were endured in the restoration of these damages. The collective farms had no seed, no implements, no tractors. Bit by bit plows, sowing and other machines were assembled. The farmers contributed thousands of tons of seed from their own supplies which they had been able to hide from the Germans. Every available horse or cow, including those personally owned by the farmers, was mobilized for field work. State authorities contributed 127 tractors, 41 plows, 15 drills and seeders and other machines.

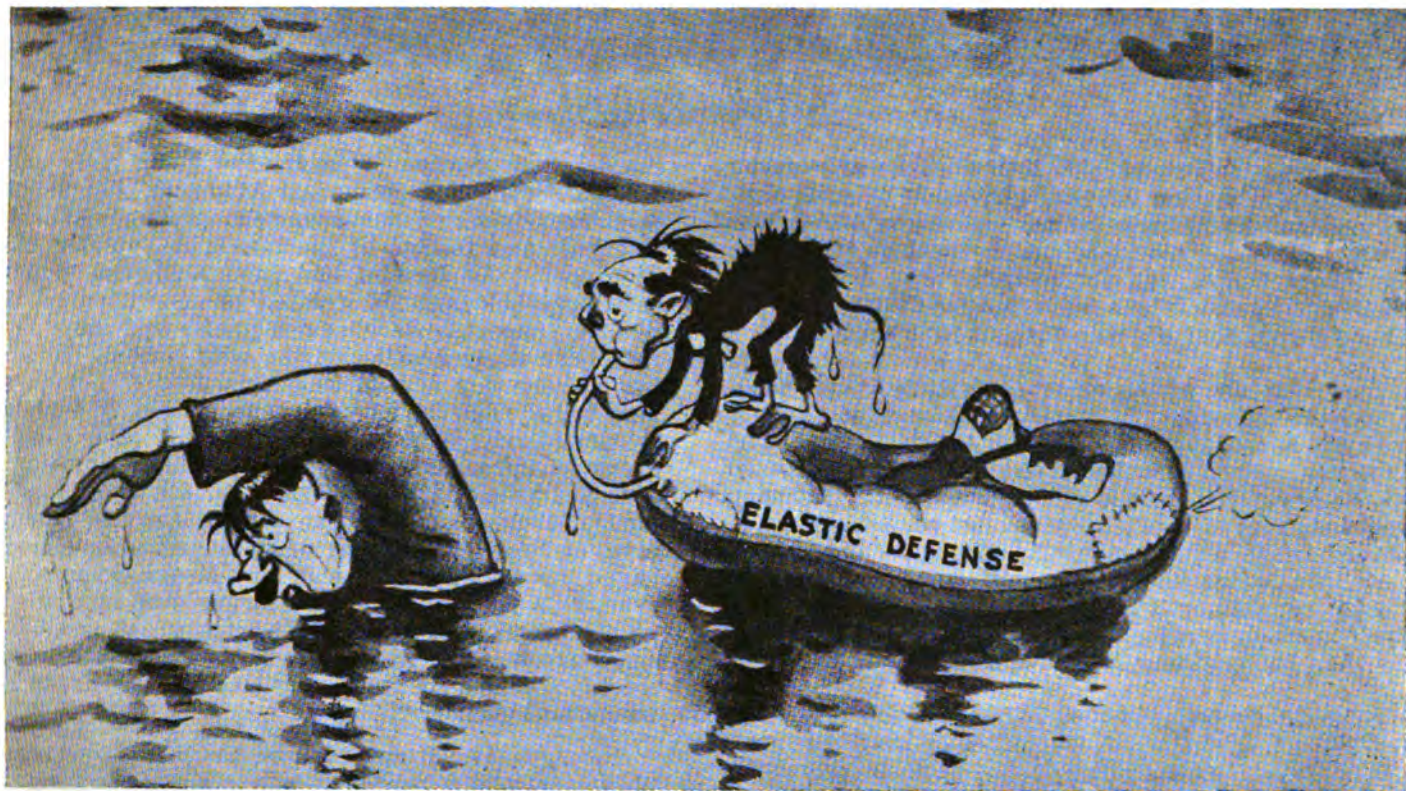
Economy Now on Firm Basis

What had seemed an impossible task was achieved—the Mechetinski collective and State farms overfulfilled their spring sowing assignments. The economy of the collective and State farms is again developing on a firm basis. Most of the farmers have built new houses in the devastated villages and hamlets of the district, and sheds, stables and other structures. All schools and reading-rooms are functioning, and most of the medical institutions have been reopened.

Today all of the 32 collective farms of the districts have reestablished their dairies, 28 have piggeries and 26 are raising sheep. The farms now have 5,700 head of cattle, 1,100 pigs, 4,900 sheep and goats and 18,000 fowls. This, of course, is much less than before the German occupation. The Mechetinski District was formerly widely known for its pedigreed cattle and sheep; this is not so at the present time, but within the next few months the collective farms hope to establish with State aid eight pedigreed cattle-breeding farms, three dairy farms, three sheep-raising farms and two stud farms. This spring the collective farms will resume the sowing of various kinds of forage which will increase the milk yield.



A Soviet citizen begins the rebuilding of his home, of which the Nazis left only the chimney



Cartoon by Boris Efimov

1943-1944

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Europe rose from her deathbed in 1943. Europe rose for battle. Why did Europe find herself? Why, in the very depths of the multitude of the people, did there flash a dawn as yet unseen but nevertheless inevitable? What are the cocks crowing about? Of what do the poets write? Who inspires the guerrillas? Without pride and conceit we can answer—Russia, her sacrifices, her blood and her victories.

Nineteen forty-three started at Stalingrad and ended with the offensive on Vitebsk and Berdichev. Let military observers measure the road from Vladikavkaz to Kherson and from Voronezh to Korosten. I want to speak of something else. There are hundreds of miles—and there is a single step that divides glory from catastrophe, and catastrophe from glory. Russia took that step in 1943. She predetermined the result of the war. We know that much heavy fighting lies ahead of us, but the most difficult period is over. That one step, Stalingrad, was the beginning of the downfall of Germany. Inspired by the example of Russia in 1943, Europe rose from the dead.

The Germans, who have called 1943 the gloomiest year in their history, are right. „The presentiment of

catastrophe is the most terrible thing of all. The past year has predetermined everything.

It takes us from the Caucasus to the Dnieper and from Egypt to Italy; from the victory bonfires on the hills of Germany to the fires of Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen. Hitler's U-boats cannot rise again from the bottom of the sea, and the dead divisions of Brandenburg, Pomerania and Hollstein will not rise from their graves. There is now nothing that can stop the Allies from striking a shattering blow. The only hope of the criminals of Hitler Germany is to postpone their execution. They are ready to pour out rivers of blood if only to win a year, six months, even less.

There is a Russian proverb: "If you could not hold the mane you will not hold the tail." This applies to the desperate counter-attacks of the German army. They did not hold on the Volga and they will not hold on the Dvina.

1944—the figures still have an unaccustomed look. But I can see them inscribed in marble as the year of victory. That is our oath, and the oath of all mankind. The earth craves to bear crops again, and the heart to feel happiness.

Citrus Culture in the Soviet South

By Tikhon Kholodny

This year will mark the 50th anniversary of the experimental station for the cultivation of sub-tropical and southern fruits at Sochi, on the Black Sea Coast. It is the oldest scientific tropical station in the Soviet Union, and at the same time is the most northern outpost in the sub-tropics. Work has continued throughout the war without interruption.

Last year one of the most interesting hybrid seedlings, the Japanese tangerine *unishu*, was crossed with the lemon and bore fruit for the first time. The Japanese assert that the *unishu* cannot be crossed with other citrus as it is of "pure descent." Russian scientists proved this theory wrong: these large pear-shaped fruits, each weighing 250 grams and having very thin skins, have a pleasant smell and a flavor closely resembling that of a lemon. But the plant itself is much hardier and withstands the winter better than the ordinary lemon.

Grapefruit seedlings also bore fruit for this anniversary. During the severe winter of 1941, all varieties of foreign grapefruit perished in Sochi, but in the case of local saplings only part of the foliage and one year's accretion suffered. It was a triumph for the cultivation of grapefruit in the Russian sub-tropics. The fruit of the best saplings of this new variety, which is called Sochi grapefruit, is not inferior either in weight (half a kilogram and more) or size, to the noted American Duncan variety.

The Sochi station, which is endeavoring to advance the growth of citrus plants as far north as possible, has worked out two new methods. The first is to create a vineyard type, and grow the fruits as creeping plants. Professor Kuritsin of Omsk grows his apples and pears this way in the harsh Siberian climate. Three years of experimentation at Sochi have shown that in the North, where the mountain climate is severe, it is possible to grow lemons in the open by training plants to spread close to the ground.

The second method of growing lemons on walls is based on the theory that the walls of dwellings radiate warmth and raise the temperature of plants. Even during frosts these walls keep the plant warmed and more sheltered. Another point is that citrus fruit grown on walls ripens 30 to 40 days earlier than other varieties—that is, before winter frosts set in—and after the fruit is gathered the tree may be wrapped.

Work of great value has been done at this station during the war by Nikolai Ryndin, who has evolved

the original "two-story" method of cultivating citrus plants. In the past autumn at Abkhazia several thousand trees on which lemons and oranges ripened among the fruit and foliage of the tangerine, yielded their first crop. As Ryndin had calculated, the fruit of these valuable species grafted on a cultivated tree like the tangerine were larger, juicier and more fragrant than those grafted on the wild lemon. In addition, where this new method was used the crop was very high. The Soviet variety called No. 511 yielded a particularly large quantity of fruit; the oranges grew in thick clusters. Each grafting during the first year yielded 40 to 50 fruits, not counting the normal crop of tangerines. At the Pzyrtskha State farm at Novy Afon, many of these graftings bore between 35 to 40 fruit, and the Meyer lemon bore even 90, a yield several times larger than on ordinary plantations. The latter suffered a great deal from sharp frosts. The whole secret was that the tangerine treetop shielded the more sensitive cultures from cold winds and even from frosts.

The new "two-story" method has proved extremely profitable; there is a saving in rearing seedlings, in their planting, in the tilling of the soil and in heating the plant in the winter. All these are reduced to a small expenditure for grafting and pruning the treetops. The new method is to be very widely applied in the Russian sub-tropics.

Scientific workers at the Sochi sub-tropical station have also served the Red Army; various plants and seedlings are grown here for the gardens of military units. These gardens have kept Army units and hospitals in the front zone well supplied with early vegetables, berries and fruits. Every inch of ground has been put to use. Now when the front is hundreds of kilometers distant, the Sochi station is working with redoubled energy. In the liberated Kuban district, work has begun anew and valuable sub-tropical varieties are being cultivated.

Latvian Guerrillas Save Harvest

During the harvest season in Latvia, a German unit with a tank and machine guns surrounded one field and drove the farmers to work. Twelve guerrillas and their commander appeared suddenly, blew up the tank, hurled grenades at the machine guns, and without the loss of a single man exterminated the Germans and turned over the grain to the farmers.

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The Scales of History

By Ilya Ehrenburg

When one examines a large canvas, one steps back a few paces. The significance of historical events can only be understood from the distance of time. Only one year has elapsed since the epilogue of the battle of Stalingrad. We cannot yet look upon it with the eyes of posterity, but we can already distinguish the grandeur of this unprecedented battle.

In every war there have been battles which overshadowed all others and focused the attention of suc-

ceeding generations; while sometimes not in themselves decisive, they nevertheless predetermined the issue of the campaign. Such was Borodino and such was Verdun.

The significance of Stalingrad is even deeper: it was a dramatic duel between two mutually incompatible worlds. A certain old German recently wrote to his son: "When all the sufferings of these years are forgotten—the bombings, the loss of near ones, fail-



Soviet machine gunners on the Central Front

ure, hope and disillusionments—your children will still be repeating one name: Stalingrad.”

Germany has long dreamed of world dominion. She tried on the imperial mantle for the first time in 1871, when the grandfathers of the present day Fritzes popped champagne corks at the stuccoed ceilings of Versailles. Reverses did not disconcert the Germans, and they classed 1918 as a blunder of history. The conquest of Europe was entrusted to the next generation. Then the world saw what it had never seen before: Germans climbing the highest mountains, sailing across the seas, and stuffing their pockets with states as with apples.

In Compeigne an ignorant individual, a spiritual nonentity, an ersatz ancient barbarian with a moustache, a shopwalker, public house philosopher and dilettante, embittered by failure, could not conceal his elation: for he knew only one way of elevating himself and that was by humiliating others.

The shadow of the swastika loomed over London. The Germans set foot in Africa. They hurled themselves upon Russia. The defeat at Moscow annoyed but did not discourage them; instead of blaming the Fuehrer they blamed the climate. They exclaimed: “What would you have! Thirty-five degrees below zero! But wait till summer—we’ll show them!”

In summer they did in fact advance rapidly to the east. That was a campaign of which neither Xerxes nor Alexander the Great nor the Emperors of Rome nor Napoleon dared dream. In their ranks marched veterans of 1914 and conceited youth, generals with dozens of crosses, commandants for Astrakhan, vice-regents for Iraq, governor generals for India and Kirghizia, lovers of caviar, oil and glory, SS men and Gestapo men, “murder van” experts and colonizers.

And with them marched the mercenaries—the Rumanians, Hungarians, Italians and Slovaks. Across the steppe rolled the heavy panzers, the six-barreled mortars, tribute of Krupp, Skoda and Creusot, trucks loaded with French wines, Dutch cheeses, portraits of the Fuehrer, maps of Kazakhstan and Mesopotamia. They moved by day and by night. They reached Stalingrad.

And at Stalingrad they lost everything.

It has been said that the Compeigne railway car in which Hitler tasted all the sweets of triumph was burned in Berlin during an air raid. No—it was burned much earlier, in Stalingrad, and with it burned Narvik, Thermopylae and Crete, and all the ephemeral victories of Germany.

Ever so far from Berlin and Frankfurt—in the steppe where once galloped the free Cossacks, where

the German burgher saw instead of geraniums, bowling alleys, and dachshunds—wormwood, blizzards and camels; where as in a fairy-tale a new city had sprung up, endlessly long and, as it were, still unaware of itself, on the bank of the most Russian of Russian rivers—a gigantic battle was fought.

Here the idea of race mastery encountered a living wall; here the savage myth extolled by Rosenberg collided with reason; here was decided the fate not only of Russia but of all civilization, from Prometheus and Aphrodite to Russian music and French painting.

They came to this steppe: students from Heidelberg with faces scarred by duels; frequenters of beer halls who boasted they could swallow 30 tankards and 30 cities; cattle drovers from Pomerania with purple necks who knew the pedigree of every ox in the Reich and who equally revered their Aryan great-great grandmothers and Hertfordshire bulls; strategists from Mecklenburg-Schwerin, convinced that humanity was a rotten tooth and that they had in their pockets, in the shape of the celebrated “pincers,” the forceps to pull it out; generals with oak leaves and quotations from von Schlieffen, ready to command “Zurueck!” to the Volga, and “Halt!” to the wind; young louts and Hitler Jugend who while still in their cradles raised their hands and frightened their mamas by crying “Sieg Heil!”; corporals still insatiable for human blood and blood sausage; hauptsturmfuehrers, sturmbannfuehrers and unterscharfuehrers.

They reached the Volga. They were already writing postcards with “Greetings from Stalingrad.” They were already jubilating.

Where are they now? Under the ground.

One might of course speak of the blunders of the German command, of the self-confidence of the Fuehrer and of the stupidity of his generals, for whom human life was nothing but a letter in the army regulations.

But I want to speak just now of something else: of the unparalleled moral strength of our men. Stalingrad was not only a fatal defeat for Germany—it was a supreme triumph for Russia.

We can now see that the autumn of 1942 was the culminating point of the German invasion. Germany had suffered a defeat at Moscow. The German generals took note of the strength of the Red Army and the peculiarities of territory and climate. In July, 1942 Hitler began his second offensive. For 100 days the Germans pushed forward. And these were not third-rate Fritzes; they were conquerors accustomed to fight and win.

In Stalingrad they encountered a resistance which

astounded them. German newspapers of that time talked of the "mad Russians," who laid down their lives but would not retreat.

There is wood that catches fire easily and burns rapidly. But our people are not like that. The enemy had penetrated deep into our territory. Why was it that people who had surrendered hundreds of versts to the enemy suddenly grew stubborn and would not retreat a hundred paces? They were peaceful people who in the recent past had been tillers of the soil, carpenters, school teachers, students, mechanics, agronomists, trappers, builders—people from Siberia, from the Urals, from the Eastern Republics, Muscovites, Northerners, Ukrainians—all dissimilar, with different lives and different passions. But they all realized that the enemy must be stopped. Stalingrad for them merged with the idea of the country. Russia must not be surrendered, and so they refused to surrender Stalingrad.

Before me lies a letter from one of Stalingrad's defenders. It is dated September 16, 1942. Here are a few lines from it: "I think we are going to die here. I am speaking of myself and my friends. But never before have I felt so keenly that all this is unimportant—even one's own fate and death. Yesterday reinforcements arrived—Siberians. What a people! Evidently the Germans are determined to pass at all costs; I've never heard such music before. But they will not pass; we're all certain of that. And the one thing now is to hold onto this patch of land—for if we hold on, it's all up with the Germans . . ."

This letter was written by a 19-year-old youth. He died a hero four days later. But that which he dreamed of in his last moments, that for which he shed his blood, came to pass: the defenders of Stalingrad saved their country.

The spiritual qualities of people are tested in the

hour of trial. Prior to Stalingrad very few people abroad understood Soviet Russia. Foreigners spoke of our country as a geographical concept, as a sort of mysterious laboratory where cranks were performing dubious experiments, as the end of the earth. Today many of these purblind folk have had their eyes opened and are watching the advance of the Red Army with hope and trust.

Who will dare to confine this recognition to physical strength alone, by talking of inexhaustible resources, of the triumph of space? In Stalingrad it was not the blast furnaces of the Urals which overpowered the blast furnaces of the Ruhr, nor the territory from Vladivostok to the Volga which excelled the territory from the Volga to the Atlantic.

No. It was the Soviet citizen who vanquished the fascist robot. In Stalingrad one period of history ended and another began. Everything that followed was made possible by Stalingrad—Ponyri, Prokhorovka, the Dnieper and the Leningrad offensive. Stalingrad showed Italy her place; it gave our Allies a year in which to prepare for military operations. Stalingrad sounded as a funeral bell tolling for Germany; and Stalingrad opened the eyes of the world to the greatness of Soviet Russia.

How fine and how just that the city which henceforth will be sacred to Russia is named for the man who helped our people to perform their historical mission!

We know that hard and trying times still lie before us. Germany will not easily be made to discard the imperial ermine for a patched coat. The last "quarter hour" is always hardest for the heart, if not for the force of arms. But after Stalingrad nothing can stop the Red Army. A year ago the scales of history swung in the balance—and one side outweighed the other.



After the German Retreat from Voronezh Last Year—Inhabitants survey the devastation of their city

THE BATTLE FOR ROVNO AND LUTSK

Throughout January the weather west of the Dnieper was warm and wet. Snow melted in the fields and it rained often. Wheels of vehicles sank in the black mud up to the hub. But even under these most difficult conditions our troops in the Rovno direction conducted successful offensive engagements, as a result of which important regional centers of the Ukraine—Rovno and Lutsk—were liberated from the German invaders.

Naturally the enemy's attention was riveted chiefly to the roads. In very swampy places and where the forests were extremely thick, his defenses were weaker. The Germans did not expect our troops with their heavy materiel to be able to get through here. But this is exactly what happened. Having pierced the front line of the enemy defenses, our troops advanced over roadless terrain, outflanking the German centers of resistance through the forests. A number of inhabited localities were taken straight from the march.

The town of Rovno was extremely important to the Germans. Here was located the residence of "Reichskommissar" Koch. Here were concentrated the officials of numerous German firms which swarmed into the Ukraine for the purpose of loot. The town was flooded with police and Gestapo men.

The capture of Rovno by our troops is another heavy blow to the German invaders. The main part in this operation was played by cavalymen and by the glorious Soviet infantry. The Germans planned to defend Rovno stubbornly, building several fortified defense lines saturated with firearms at the approaches to the city. For several weeks, thousands of Ukrainian collective farmers driven here from all over the region were building fortifications. The town garrison was composed of a considerable force of infantry, artillery and gendarme units. After powerful artillery preparation, Red Army mobile forces broke through from the north, and annihilated and dispersed the German garrisons. The indefatigable infantry did not lag behind the mobile units.

Simultaneously the vanguard detachments of our troops appeared at the town of Lutsk, situated northwest of Rovno. The threat to Lutsk took the Germans by surprise. They tried to put up resistance, concentrating quite large forces, but nothing came of it. Our troops captured Lutsk by a vigorous blow, creating the danger of encirclement for the Rovno garrison. Prisoners captured in the fighting at the approaches to Rovno testify that the German command had ordered the town held at any cost. The Germans had to be dislodged from almost every house. During the fighting part of the German garrison tried to break through to the south through Zdolbunov, but were intercepted by other Soviet forces blocking

the railway junction of Zdolbunov. Fierce fighting followed, ending in the complete defeat of the enemy. Our units took the town and railway junction of Zdolbunov, flinging the Germans to the southwest.

Operation of our troops in the Rovno direction were distinguished by vigor and stubbornness. Our powerful regiments made a fighting advance of dozens of kilometers over roadless terrain. Having cleared the German invaders from Rovno and Lutsk they continued moving westward. Rich booty and numerous German prisoners were taken.

THE RING TIGHTENS

"Not only the officers, but even the men, know they are trapped. But we have been ordered to hold out to the last and to wait for relief," stated German Captain Franz Helmut, taken prisoner by our troops in the area of encirclement of the 10 German divisions in the Dnieper Bend.

Another prisoner, a chauffeur, stated that all the chauffeurs of his division were sent to the forward line and ordered to die rather than surrender their positions. The prisoners testify that food is getting short—the men are fed only once a day. Fuel and ammunition are also running low. The German command tries to supply the trapped divisions by air, but in the air the German transport-plane pilots meet a ring almost as solid as that on the ground. Soviet scouts incessantly patrol the air, spotting the landing fields of the enemy transport planes and immediately reporting their location to the bases, after which the enemy machines fall at once under the massed blows of the Soviet bombers and Stormoviks.

In the air, Junkers 52 planes are intercepted by watchful Soviet fighters. In one day alone, February 5, 51 German transport planes were destroyed, of which 22 were shot down and 29 destroyed on air-dromes, not counting numerous disabled planes.

On the ground, German troops within the ring and those trying to come to their relief from without, west of the towns of Shpola and Zvenigorodka, encounter a curtain of fire which the German tank groups are powerless to pierce. Both the inner and outer periphery of the ring of encirclement fairly bristle with anti-tank and other guns. Wave after wave of German tanks come against them, only to fall back with many missing. The battlefield is littered with crippled and smashed German machines.

Soviet troops are capturing one inhabited locality after another, relentlessly narrowing the area held by the trapped German divisions.

Deputies to Supreme Soviet Report on Health and Education

In his speech at the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet, People's Commissar of Health Protection of the USSR Miterev stated that hospitals of the People's Commissariat of Health Protection and of the Red Army Medical Administration return over 70 per cent of all wounded men to active service. This percentage has remained constant throughout the war, despite the fact that hospitals now receive officers and men who had been wounded before.

The past period of the war has shown that the mortality in hospitals under the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR and of the Red Army Medical Administration is several times lower than the mortality during the war of 1914-17. In hospitals of the People's Commissariat of Health Protection it is a little over one per cent.

The achievements of our medical workers in the treatment of wounded men have made it possible to reduce mortality among patients with chest, spine, face and jaw wounds by three to four times. Whereas during the First World War over 60 per cent of those with wounded extremities had to undergo amputations, the number of amputations has now been reduced to one-third.

During the past World War such dangerous complications as tetanus were in 80 per cent of the cases fatal, and gas gangrene in the great majority of cases also caused death or amputation. Now, with the use of specific serums for the prevention and treatment of these diseases, we have succeeded in practically abolishing tetanus and greatly reducing cases of gangrene. During the past World War a huge number of wounded died from loss of blood; now due to blood transfusion methods worked out by Soviet scientists and an extensive network of institutes and blood donor centers which have given the front over 800 tons of blood, we have succeeded in saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of officers and men.

During this war a network of specialized hospitals has been widely developed, making it possible for us to restore the functions of extremities, preserve sight, restore hearing and correct defects which disfigure the face.

The population of our country renders great aid to the hospitals. Soviet people give wounded men their blood; they surround them with attention and love.

History shows that many armies have lost their battle efficiency not so much from bullets and shells as from losses caused by epidemics. We have not

had epidemics in the country during the Great Patriotic War, despite its great scale and the extremely difficult conditions created by evacuation of populations and transport of troops. Isolated outbreaks of typhus in some districts, especially those liberated from German occupation, are quickly suppressed. During this period the number of cases of typhus has hardly increased, while there are fewer cases of dysentery, measles and scarlet fever than during the prewar period. This is proof that Soviet health protection has passed the stern test of war with credit.

Miterev also pointed out the great solicitude for children displayed by the State during the Patriotic War. The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has issued a special decree concerning improvement in the work of children's health protection organs. This decree also assigned additional food



Removing snow from Gorky Street, Moscow

funds for children. All this has created a firm material base for the solution of the main problems of children's health protection during the war. The favorable results of the execution of this decree are already apparent: in 1943 child mortality was reduced by 50 per cent as compared with 1940.

Deputy Potemkin, of the Russian SFSR

In a speech at the session of the Soviet of the Union, Deputy Vladimir Potemkin, People's Commissar of Education for the Russian SFSR, pointed out that during the Patriotic War, despite the extreme strain on all resources, the Party and the Government never relaxed their attention to education.

Expenditures for education will form a considerable part of the USSR's budget in 1944. The draft budget provides an approximate appropriation of 7,886,000,000 rubles for education in the Russian Federation alone. This is 2,366,000,000 rubles more than last year's expenditure. The school enrollment will

also increase considerably, reaching 14,500,000 persons in 1944. Potemkin spoke in detail of the enormous restoration work accomplished in districts liberated from the German invaders. Over 15,000 school buildings have been repaired. About 24,000 schools have already been opened in the liberated regions.

The Soviet State shows particular concern for children left without parents and those who have temporarily lost connection with them. The 1944 budget provides over 1,000,000,000 rubles for their support. Special homes have been opened for the children of Red Army men and guerrillas, and for orphans whose parents were killed by the Hitlerites.

There are over 3,000 children's homes caring for 337,000 children under the People's Commissariat of Education. Provisions of the 1944 budget will make it possible to increase this contingent considerably. "Soviet teachers," concluded Potemkin, "will make every effort to do their share in the task of routing the German-fascist invaders."

Kuzbas Increases Coal Production

In a letter addressed to Stalin, bearing 878,275 signatures, the workers of the Kuznetsk Basin report that in 1943 the Kuzbas turned out 4,000,000 more tons of coal than in 1942. The output of coking coal for the iron and steel works of the Urals and the Kuznetsk Basin increased by 33 per cent. Compared with 1942, the Kuznetsk iron and steel works increased the output of iron and steel by 70,000 tons, of rolled steel by 73,000 tons, and of coke by 500,000 tons. The output of high grade steel increased considerably and production of ferrous alloys was 350 per cent greater.

Kuzbas munition plants have increased their output of arms and munitions by 50 per cent. The capacity of the Kuzbas power stations has increased by more than 100 megawatts.

The Kuznetsk Basin is helping the Donbas with gifts of large quantities of equipment, instruments, food and clothing. The biggest enterprises have become "patrons" of similar plants in the liberated areas.

The Kuzbas workers undertake in 1944 to increase their production of coal by 2,200,000 tons, of rolled steel by 25,000 tons, of steel by 50,000 tons, and of coke by 250,000 tons. They intend to double their munitions production, and to turn out 350 per cent more arms.

Agriculture North of 62nd Parallel

The world's only agricultural station beyond the Arctic Circle, which initiated agriculture in the Soviet extreme North, has marked its 20th anniversary. Scientific experiments conducted by the staff of this station set up in the Kola Peninsula by the Academy of Sciences have made it possible to push the boundary of cultivation of agricultural crops far to the north.

North of the 62nd parallel, where previously no agriculture existed, potatoes and vegetables now grow very well at 70 degrees north latitude, and grain crops at the 68th parallel. Hundreds of kilograms of seed gathered at the experimental fields of the station enable the Arctic collective and State farms to plant their fields and gardens each year and obtain good harvests.

During these 20 years the area sown to grain in the Soviet extreme North has increased seven times, to potatoes 20 times and to other vegetables 13 times. Northerners who formerly ate only vegetables brought from other parts of the country now have their own supply.

During the war the Arctic station has carried out extensive work in increasing the harvest yield of sturdy, frost-resisting varieties of vegetables, as well as grain crops and perennial grasses. The staff of the station has organized special courses for agricultural workers who wish to study Northern agro-technics.

FINNISH TROOPS ON SOVIET-GERMAN FRONT

By Y. Ilyinsky

On January 11, 1944 the Nazi *Koelnische Zeitung* published an article by its Helsinki correspondent, who in discussing the "close military cooperation between Finland and Germany," wrote:

"In the present war young Finnish volunteers from all sections of the people have joined the SS Viking Division in order to learn the art of war and to fight against the USSR. They fight in the Ukraine and the Caucasus . . . The Germans and Finns know they can depend upon one another. A surprise visit made by the Fuehrer to Finnish Commander-in-Chief Mannerheim in the summer of 1942, on the occasion of the latter's 75th birthday, as well as the Finnish Marshal's trip to Hitler's headquarters, were more than just an outward evidence of the high value placed on the services rendered by our allies in this war . . . A branch of the Munich Academy has been opened in Helsinki during the war . . ."

Thus the Nazi newspaper exposed the Finnish rulers who insist that Finnish troops are not to be found on the Soviet-German front. They are trying to hide behind the mask of a "defensive" war. They hope to deceive world public opinion by stories of Finland's "own little war," which supposedly has nothing in common with the war being waged by the Hitlerite imperialists. The Nazi *Koelnische Zeitung*, on the other hand, declares that the Finns not only have joined Germany in her perfidious attack on the Soviet Union, but are also taking an active part in military operations alongside the Germans.

In the summer of 1942 a Finnish rifle brigade consisting of five battalions took part in the Don Bend fighting. The brigade suffered very heavily at the time: its losses in dead alone were put at 700. This fact was reported in newspapers throughout the world, despite the efforts of the Finnish ring-leaders to conceal it by means of various unconvincing "denials." Finally the Finnish press itself gave the story away. *Uusi Suomi*, for example, wrote: "The march of the Finnish volunteers to the Caucasus can be compared with the march of the men of Bjerneberg in the Thirty Years' War."

As an echo of this report the Koenigsberg radio station broadcast a letter written by a Finnish soldier concerning "battles in Ossetia fought by Finnish troops."

For this reason the New York paper *PM* arrived at the conclusion that the official statements of the Finns that they are only defending themselves cannot be taken in good faith, because it is well-known that the Finnish troops are taking part in the fighting on the

southern sector of the Soviet-German front, thousands of miles from their native land.

Thus the part played by the Finnish army in the fighting in Russia has received widespread publicity far beyond the confines of Finland. Driven into a corner, the Finnish rulers reluctantly admitted that only one "volunteer battalion" was operating on the Soviet-German front. They could not entirely conceal the joint action of Finnish and German troops for the reason that when in the summer of 1943 the "volunteer battalion" returned home, they received a rather cool welcome from the Finnish population. The Finnish fascist paper *Hameen Sanomat* even demanded that the "unworthy attitude displayed by some people in regard to our volunteers" be censured. The Finnish people, exhausted by the war into which they had been driven by the clique supporting Hitler, staged a demonstration against these storm-troopers of Mannerheim.

Meanwhile the Finnish ruling clique continued to swear there was not a single Finnish soldier on the Soviet-German front. And again the Finnish press let the cat out of the bag. On November 8, 1943 *Ain Suunta* admitted: "Finns are being used as instructors to teach winter warfare tactics to the Germans." Thus the Finnish hypocrites touched up the signboard: instead of "volunteers" it was now "instructors."

And the Nazi *Koelnische Zeitung*, in the article quoted above, takes the mask off the Janus-faced Finnish rulers and shows that they continue to provide their German allies with cannon fodder.

Another trick of the lying Finnish rulers has been exposed. Lies and trickery are the chief weapons of the Tanner-Mannerheim gang which is in power in Finland. It is a characteristic fact that the present victorious Soviet offensive around Leningrad is being hushed up by the Finns.

Reconstruction in Dniepropetrovsk

Dniepropetrovsk now has in working order three trolley routes, a flour mill, clothing factory, bakeries, laundries and the water supply system. Five hospitals, seven polyclinics and 11 dispensaries have been opened; 14,000 schoolchildren have resumed their studies.

The metallurgical, building, transport and medical institutes have also started to function again.

Casualties of Two Spanish Battalions in USSR

By Major N. Petrenko

Soviet troops continuing the offensive south of the town of Luban have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in men and materiel. Despite poor roads and boggy terrain, our units are advancing successfully. They bypass German positions, make their way along forest paths and attack the enemy by surprise from flanks or rear. These unexpected advances have caused considerable damage to the enemy. Fearing encirclement the fascists often abandon artillery and war supplies and beat a hasty retreat.

In recent battles Hitler's flunkies from Spain operating on the Volkhov Front have again sustained severe casualties. As was already stated, one of the Spanish battalions was routed near the town of Luban. This so-called special battalion consisted of a unit of the legion with artillery and sapper detachments. The battalion was formed after the reorganization of the routed "Blue Division," and numerically equaled a regiment. It has now been ascertained that during the recent fighting the battalion lost in killed and wounded at least 1,000 soldiers and officers.

Several days ago other units of the Spanish Legion received a hammering by Soviet troops. While pursuing the enemy, our attacking forces caught up with the Spanish battalion and attacked it on the flank. The battle was brief, but the Spaniards who survived will not easily forget it.

"Our battalion," stated Francisco Continent Martines, one of the prisoners, "has of late been doing nothing but retreating. Your troops never gave us time to establish ourselves for defense. Besides, the soldiers do not want to fight. They want to get away as far as possible, to avoid battle.

"Everybody knows how your troops smashed the 'Blue Division.' Many of its units after severe losses were formed into battalions. We were distributed among battalions reinforced by new arrivals from Spain. Those fresh Spanish units shared the same fate as the 'Blue Division.' The very first day we were hurled into battle, the battalion suffered heavy losses. Your units are very good in fighting in forests. They always appeared where we had least expected them, and therefore the battalion often found itself trapped. In the recent battle our battalion lost about 850 soldiers and officers."

This was confirmed by another Spanish prisoner, Gabriel Perez Pardo. "Our battalion was reinforced just before it was transferred to Luban, but the ranks of the units have thinned again. Just before I surrendered I heard from my commander that some units were completely wiped out."

Spanish prisoners also stated that their battalion abandoned large quantities of arms and munitions during retreat.

MY NEW SERUM

By Academician Bogomolets

The health of man, his life-span, resistance to contagion, the healing of wounds and bone-fractures, all depend primarily on the capacity to react of the cells of the connective tissues of the body. The enormous importance of this reactive capacity has confronted science with the pressing task of finding a way of controlling it and of intensifying it when necessary.

As a means to this end, I suggested "anti-reticulocytotoxic serum," abbreviated as "A.C.S." Administered in small doses, this serum sharply stimulates the most important functions of the connective tissues.

Prolonged work has been required to develop methods of applying this serum. Already hundreds of studies completed in hospitals have fully confirmed in thousands of cases that when correctly applied

"A.C.S." is a powerful means of ameliorating the course of contagious diseases. It aids convalescence, speeds up the healing of wounds, and helps in the healing of fractures.

There have been some especially striking cases—already very numerous—in which fractures caused by firearms, which had not healed for many months and seemed to doom the wounded men to an invalid state, healed within the normal term of five to six weeks after three subcutaneous injections of serum—about one drop per injection. The men got well quickly and returned to the front.

At present the serum is being widely and successfully used in all hospitals for treating wounds. It has great prospects for combating many acute and chronic infections.

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REHABILITATION OF THE LIBERATED REGIONS

IZVESTIA published the following editorial on February 5:

On August 21, 1943, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union passed a resolution on "Urgent measures for the economic rehabilitation of districts liberated from German occupation." This was a document of cardinal national importance, and it was welcomed by the Soviet people as realistic work on a gigantic scale for the healing of the wounds dealt the regions where the German bandits temporarily held sway.

The Soviet State undertook this work at the height of war, while hostilities were still in progress. Every

fresh victory scored by the Red Army in its offensive restores to the Soviet people new districts, towns, villages and railway stations. They are recovered by us, ruined, plundered and devastated by the German invaders. As their plight at the front grows more hopeless the Hitlerites become more brutal and heinous in their violence and rapine, and the greater is the scale of work which will have to be done to rehabilitate the liberated areas.

In his speech of November 6, 1943, Comrade Stalin said: "In areas where the fascist cutthroats have for a time been masters we shall have to restore the demolished towns and villages, industry, transport, agriculture and cultural institutions; we shall have



One of the public buildings of Yelnya, after the German invaders were routed

to create normal living conditions for the Soviet people delivered from fascist slavery. The work of the restoration of the economy and culture is already going full-blast in the districts liberated from the enemy. But this is only the beginning. We must completely eliminate the consequences of the Germans' domination in the districts liberated from German occupation. This is the great national task. We can and must cope with this difficult task within a short time."

The Soviet State has already proceeded to tackle this great and difficult national task. Today the report has been published of the Committee of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR on the economic rehabilitation of districts liberated from the German occupation, in pursuance of the Resolution of the Council of People's Commissars and of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, of August 21, 1943.

This report gives a clear picture of the scope, scale and tempo of the work of rehabilitation done by the



The city theater of Kaluga, wrecked by the retreating Hitlerites

Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Government, and the tremendous assistance they are rendering to the liberated regions. This assistance runs parallel with the efforts of millions of Soviet people who, while doing everything essential to supply the Red Army, at the same time have thrown themselves heart and soul into the great task of restoring life to thousands of towns and villages wrecked, burned and devastated by the Hitlerite bandits.

One has to picture the Soviet people who have been wrested from fascist slavery, and what it means to them to have their houses repaired, to receive seed to sow their fields, to have returned to them their evacuated livestock, to hear tractors humming again and to see factories, schools and hospitals restored—to realize this immense and vital job and what great economic and political progress is expressed in the figures of the report published today.

The report deals with only the primary and urgent measures which were outlined by the Central Commit-

tee of the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Government. It embraces the first period of four months and ten days of the State work of rehabilitation—from August 21, 1943, when the resolution of the Party and Government was adopted, to January 1, 1944. What has been accomplished in that brief period of little more than one-third of a year testifies to the wonderful Soviet State, to socialist planned economy and the collective farm system.

What has been done under the guidance of the Party and the Government for the economic rehabilitation of the liberated Stavropol and Krasnodar territories and the Kalinin, Smolensk, Orel, Kursk, Voronezh, Rostov, Stalingrad, Voroshilovgrad and other regions in these four months?

The liberated territories and regions have acquired the first and most essential bases and foundation for the development of their economy. First, all of the 630,830 head of livestock which in their time were evacuated and taken care of by the collective farmers of the Eastern Regions have now been returned and restored to the collective farms of the liberated regions. The Government purchased and delivered to the liberated districts and sold to the collective farms another 250,613 head. Further, 663,000 head were received by the collective farms as a result of purchases made under advanced contracts.

Considerable help in restoring the livestock industry of liberated districts is being rendered by collective farms and collective farmers of districts forming a part of these same regions which were subjected to occupation. In all, during these four months the liberated regions and territories received 1,723,201 head of livestock, and in addition 516,853 head of poultry. This laid a secure foundation for the complete rehabilitation of the livestock industry in the liberated regions.

The period covered by the report was the period of the autumn sowing. One of the most urgent measures of assistance was to provide the collective farms with seed. The Government assigned the collective farms and State farms of the liberated districts 96,324 tons of winter crop seed. Thus was laid the foundation for the future crop of fields which are again being cultivated by the fruitful labor of their owners, the collective farmers.

In the liberated districts 575 machine and tractor stations, 969 machine and tractor repair workshops and nine repair factories have been restored, and 3,587 local officials from the department of agriculture and agricultural experts have returned from evacuation to their former places of work.

From ashes and ruins, 326,461 dwelling houses have sprung up in town and countryside. Nearly

1,000,000 persons who had been left without a roof over their heads and were living in dugouts have now acquired homes. Twenty-five factories have been constructed for the production of building materials; and 20 saw frames have been started at eleven sawmills, capable of producing each month material for building standard wooden houses to accommodate 800 families.

Families to the number of 1,062,363 have been entirely exempted from all forms of delivery of agricultural products to the State. This includes 785,783 families of Red Army men and guerrillas.

Immense work has been done to repair the railways. In particular, 122 station buildings and hundreds of dormitories for maintenance workers and roadside cabins have been rebuilt, as well as homes for railwaymen, with a total living area of 600,000 square meters. Household plots have been assigned to 213,588 railwaymen's families.

The Government is showing particular solicitude for children of men in the armed forces and children whose parents were killed by the Germans. The first of nine Suvorov Military Schools, with 4,588 children, has opened, in addition to 23 special trade schools with 9,000 pupils, 118 special children's homes accommodating 14,391 children, and 36 distributing centers capable of accommodating 2,300 children while they are being found permanent homes.

A large number of factories, schools, hospitals and libraries have been rebuilt or repaired, and immense quantities of building materials have been consigned to the liberated areas.

These are the first steps in the task of national importance, in the accomplishment of which have been combined the efforts of the Government, the fraternal aid of the working peoples of town and country who firmly respond to the needs of their brothers who are ruined by the Germans, and the energies of the people liberated from German slavery, who are firmly confident that the Soviet system will quickly restore them to normal life and prosperity.

Thousands of instances might be cited illustrating the warm sympathy and solicitude which the working people of the Soviet country are displaying for the liberated regions. When the Ostretsk collective farm in the Ivanovo Region adopted one of the Smolensk collective farms, 52-year-old Alexei Kharitonov expressed the sentiments of the country when he said: "The Russian people have always helped one another in need." The initiative of the Ostretsk collective farmers was taken up and developed into a big social movement to aid the liberated collective farms and go on doing so until they are fully restored.

It is impossible to enumerate all the gifts made by the working people of the towns, the gifts of the populations of entire regions to towns and villages which

have thrown off the Hitlerite yoke, thanks to the victories of the Red Army. Let us recall that stream of freight trains which flowed from all parts of the country to heroic Stalingrad, to Voronezh and Kursk and to the collective farms of these and other liberated regions—trains loaded with articles of prime necessity, from clothing and household utensils to equipment for schools and libraries. The movement is growing; it has become a daily feature of our Soviet life and it will not cease until our Soviet regions are fully recovered and again flourishing.

Need it be said how the inhabitants of the liberated districts treasure this aid which is bringing them life, strength and confidence in the future? When a delegation from the Novosibirsk Region brought a trainload of gifts to the Voronezh Region, Alexei Titov, an old collective farm stableman, who officially accepted some horses sent from Novosibirsk, said: "Thanks for your aid. Now we have something to start with."

Something to start with—that is the chief significance of these first measures of aid.

A creative enthusiasm has been fired in the hearts



School for Animal Husbandry, Stalino Region, dynamited by the Germans

of the Soviet people liberated by the Red Army from German slavery. We have only to recall what is being done in the Donbas today, how the people there, relieved from the torment of life under the Germans, set about restoring the mines and factories; with what speed their work is being done and with what enthusiasm they are rebuilding their Soviet life. The first of the restored factories are already operating, mines have been reopened and the collective farmers are preparing for a happy spring sowing.

And all this vast work of rehabilitation which has begun so brilliantly is like a great seeding time, a new rebirth. The seed is falling into the ground. Soon it will sprout—it is already sprouting—in the shape of new factories, mills, collective farms, schools, hospitals and scientific institutes.

The report published today is a wonderful document. Every line of it tells of the gigantic efforts

of the Government and the people for the revival of economic life ruined by the Germans, and the inexhaustible strength of our motherland.

What has been done is only a beginning. The budget for 1944 approved by the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR appropriates 16,000,000,000 rubles for economic rehabilitation of the liberated districts. The task is to fully employ these funds, to expedite the rehabilitation of industry and agriculture, the transport system and cultural institutions.

And the report read today shows that the work of economic and cultural rehabilitation in the districts liberated from the enemy is proceeding and will proceed successfully, and that the national task of completely obliterating the consequences of the German rule in these districts will be accomplished within a short time.

Clearing the Nikopol Bridgehead

In a dispatch on the defeat of the Germans of the Nikopol group, a PRAVDA correspondent writes:

Until the last few days the enemy still retained the Nikopol bridgehead—his last on the left bank of the Dnieper. One hundred and twenty kilometers long and 35 kilometers wide, it had the shape of a bow, with the Dnieper as its string. The other day our troops launched an offensive against this bridgehead. By blows from the north and south the enemy defense was pierced to a depth of six to seven kilometers. On the very first day, thanks to the swiftness and the suddenness of our thrust, the enemy sustained heavy losses in men and materiel.

After the piercing of the German defense in the north and south, stiff fighting broke out all along the front of the bridgehead. The Germans resisted furiously, repeatedly launching heavy counter-attacks supported by tanks and self-propelling guns. Active offensive operations of our troops were hampered by incessant rains and washed-out roads.

The furious resistance of the Germans, who had the wide Dnieper at their back, could not be broken without the powerful support of artillery. Our guns became bogged in the mud, powerful engines stalled and even the half-tracks failed to make any headway in this sea of sticky black mire. Here the fabulous strength and stamina of our men did what seemed impossible. Through impassable mud the men hauled guns, carried heavy cases of shells and thus blasted the hopes the Germans pinned on the absence of roads.

A tornado of artillery fire sowed death in the enemy camp. The Germans' last hope was to reach the crossings over the Dnieper at Bolshaya and Malaya Lepatikha. But our troops kept slashing into the enemy formations, pressing them ever farther to the Dnieper and threatening to cut them off from the Dnieper crossings. At that moment the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front approached Nikopol from the north on the other bank. This tipped the balance. The German group flinched and its retreat turned into flight. Abandoning guns, trucks and carts, the Germans rushed toward the crossings, where enormous jams occurred. Taking advantage of somewhat improved weather, our aviation appeared over the crossings and began bombing the ferries, tugboats and barges loaded with troops, increasing still more the panic in the enemy camp.

In one day alone our fighters and Stormoviks destroyed the crossings on the Dnieper at Bolshaya Lepatikha three times. They sank three German troop-carrying barges, one ferry and a tugboat, and wiped out hundreds of Hitlerites who were trying to escape.

Thousands of Hitlerites found their graves in the cold waters of the Dnieper. Part of them were forced into the marshes along the bank and were wiped out or forced to surrender. Even those who managed to cross the Dnieper, fell under the blows of the troops of the Third Ukrainian Front, who cut off their roads of retreat. Now everything is over here. The Nikopol bridgehead—the Germans' last bulwark on the left bank of the Dnieper—has been cleared of the enemy.

Citizens Unanimously Approve Decisions of Supreme Soviet

The people of Moscow unanimously approved the decisions adopted by the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Vyacheslav M. Molotov's speech, published in the newspapers, was warmly discussed at the Stalin automobile plant. The designer Sonkin, winner of the Stalin Prize, declared: "The extension to the Union Republics of the right to establish independent foreign relations and to organize their own army formations vividly attests to the triumph of the national policy of Lenin and Stalin. It is both a moral and political blow to Nazism and its man-hating policy. The friendship of the peoples of the USSR is sealed with blood on the battlefields. All tests and the wise decision of the Soviet Government will further strengthen the fraternal relations between the Republics."

The people of Leningrad followed the developments of the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet with great attention. Regular readings of material from the Session were held in shops, plants and factories. It was with great satisfaction that the working people of the city of Lenin learned of the Session's decision to allocate 128,400,000,000 rubles of the 1944 budget to defense. There was unanimous approval of Molo-

tov's speech concerning the granting of the right to the Union Republics to establish independent foreign relations and to organize their own army formations.

Regarding the decisions of the Session, Academician Yakub Kolas, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the Byelorussian SSR, stated: "Molotov's speech at the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR is an historical event. The extension of the rights of the Union Republics to establish independent foreign relations and to organize their own army formations attest to the political maturity of the national Soviet Socialist Republics. Aside from the fact that these charges vest each Union Republic with additional authority, this reform once again shows the invalidity and short-sightedness of the plans of the Nazi adventurers, who based their strategy for the military defeat of the USSR upon the instability of fraternal relations between the Soviet peoples. As a citizen of the Byelorussian Soviet Republic I am proud of the fact that my heroic people in their entirety have to the very end remained true to the ideas of the new world proclaimed by Vladimir Lenin and brought into being by Joseph Stalin."

NOTES OF A DEPUTY

By Victor Vesnin

President of the Academy of Architecture of the USSR and Deputy to the Supreme Soviet

As I write these lines the impressions of the recently adjourned 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet, which I attended in the capacity of Deputy, are still fresh in my mind. Never for a moment had I lost faith in the inevitability of victory over the German invaders. But now my faith has matured in the complete assurance that the final and decisive victory we so desire is rapidly approaching.

At the Session we studied and approved the State Budget of the USSR for 1944. This is a history-making document, a vivid indication of the country's limitless production forces, the might of its economic system.

I, an architect and author of the Dnieproges project and of many buildings destroyed by the Germans, can well understand the bitterness of the builder when he sees the smoking ruins of factories, electric power stations and palaces, all built with such earnest care. In the city of Nalchik, capital of Kabardino-Balkaria, from which I was elected Deputy to the Supreme Soviet, the German invaders destroyed all the buildings constructed in the years preceding the war—the Palace of Soviets, the House of Young Pioneers and many others. Having literally levelled to the ground the buildings of the residential section, the Germans

reduced this flourishing and colorful town to ruins.

I well remember the appearance of Stalingrad after the vain attempts of the Germans to capture the place. I am familiar with the destruction wrought in Kiev, Kharkov, Voronezh, Smolensk, Novgorod and scores of Soviet towns in the war zone, or temporarily in the clutches of the enemy.

With all my soul, therefore, do I share the wrath of the people, the builders, incensed at the barbarity displayed by the enemy. These feelings were reflected by the facts and the figures mentioned in the report on the allocations of the State Budget of the USSR during the war. The will for victory of this warrior people is reflected by the increase in the allotments for the war expenditure, totaling 128,400,000,000 rubles.

All along the vast Soviet-German front Soviet troops are fighting for their country, to crush for all time the frightful destructive system of Nazism. But during the grim days of war the Soviet people are restoring the ruined cities and the economy of the liberated territory. The State Budget of the USSR for 1944 provides for the expenditure of 16,000,000,000 rubles to restore the economy of the liberated districts. So large an investment is a certain guarantee of the rapid growth of the economic might of the USSR.

Nikolai Shvernik, First Vice Chairman of Supreme Soviet of USSR

Nikolai Shvernik, elected First Vice Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was born in 1888. His father was a St. Petersburg worker. At the age of 14 Shvernik began his working career at an electro-mechanical plant, where he learned the trade of turner.

In 1917 the 29-year-old turner, who participated actively in trade union work, was elected Chairman of the All-Union Committee of workers of the ordnance works. Since that time his activities have in the main been connected with the trade union movement.

When the Civil War broke out, Shvernik was working in Samara. He soon joined a guerrilla detachment, and subsequently held commanding posts in the regular Red Army.

In 1921 Shvernik returned to trade union work. He was elected Chairman of the large District Committee of Industrial Trade Unions in the Donbas. At the age of 35 he was appointed to the post of People's Commissar of the Workers and Peasants Inspection. In 1929, after several years of work in this and other State posts, he again became a leading

trade union worker as Chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Metal Workers. One year later he was elected to head the entire trade union movement in the USSR as Secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.

Nikolai Shvernik simultaneously carries on tremendous State activities as Chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. He is also Chairman of the Extraordinary State Committee for ascertaining and investigating crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders and their accomplices.

Shvernik has done much to consolidate the friendship between the trade unions of the USSR and of Britain, and also between the Soviet and British peoples. He headed the Soviet Trade Union Delegation at the 75th Congress of British Trade Unions and on numerous occasions spoke to the members of the English trade unions. Shvernik is also author of a number of books on the trade union movement.

For his outstanding services to the working people, Shvernik has been decorated with the Order of Lenin.

January—a Month of Achievement

The first month of 1944 was marked by brilliant successes of the Red Army at the front and the completion of a number of large industrial objectives in the rear.

Credit for these achievements goes to many thousands of people, including Generals Vatutin, Rokossovsky and Govorov, as well as workers of plants supplying the front with first-rate armaments, builders of the East who have launched large industrial enterprises, Donbas miners who are getting out coal from the pits they are restoring, builders of the Moscow subway and Baku oil workers.

First to receive the high award of Hero of Socialist Labor in 1944 was the President of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Alexander Bogomolets, who promoted the development of national science at a critical period for the Ukraine, and also created a number of valuable preparations for healing wounds and bone fractures.

Another who received this high honor in January was one of the creators of Soviet artillery arms, Fedor Petrov, designer of many types of ordnance.

One of the first in 1944 to receive the congratulations of Stalin on the completion of the construction

of a powerful industrial plant was Garbuzov, director of one of the building trusts. Under the direction of this talented engineer the construction of the largest Kuznetsk ferrous-alloy works was completed. Twenty months ago when Garbuzov arrived at Kuznetsk to begin work, he found an empty lot where the plant was to be rebuilt. Construction had to be undertaken in the hard conditions of the Siberian winter, but the workers directed by Garbuzov carried out the gigantic task with credit. Now the last electric furnace of the plant has been put into operation.

First place for January among the miners of the liberated Donbas was contested by many. The latest highest record of labor productivity was scored by a young miner, Ivan Panashchatenko, who on January 31 turned out over 2,000 per cent of his quota.

Among those decorated by the Government in the first month of 1944 are people of diverse activities—Professor Zbansky; the conductors of the Pyatnitsky popular Russian Folk Choir, Kaznin and Zakharov, and many others. All these people, of various professions and ages, are spurred on by one inspiration—to help strengthen the might of the Soviet country and hasten the hour of victory.

A Letter to Stalin from the People of Stalingrad

Following are excerpts from a letter written February 1 and addressed to Joseph Stalin, carrying the signatures of 546,348 working people of the city and Region of Stalingrad:

On February 2, 1943 the last shot was fired in our city. The Battle of Stalingrad, the greatest in the history of wars, was over. Stalingrad had withstood the unprecedented onslaught of the picked German-fascist troops, held its ground and won the day.

Today, a year later, when we recall how it all happened, our hearts swell again and again with pride for our mighty native city, and with a feeling of boundless love for you, our great and wise leader.

The peoples of the world refer to the heroic defense of Stalingrad as a miracle. Following the miracle of the defense of their city, the people of Stalingrad set out to work the miracle of its regeneration.

The work of rehabilitation began as soon as the last volleys of battle died down. From the field of battle, from districts in the rear, old veteran workers came back to their factories, prepared to embark at once on restoring the destroyed economy. On February 4, 1943, assembled in the Square of the Fallen Heroes, before the common graves of the defenders of Tsaritsyn-Stalingrad, we solemnly vowed to you that undaunted by any difficulties we would bend all our efforts, all our energy, to heal quickly the gaping wounds of our beloved city.

The entire Soviet country defended Stalingrad, and the entire country came to our assistance in the work of its regeneration . . . From the Archangel and Turkmenia, from Gorky and Baku, from all the ends of our vast country came trains loaded with building materials needed for the restoration of our heroic city. An army of builders flocked to Stalingrad to raise it from its ruins.

The difficulties which confronted us in the struggle against the appalling destruction are indescribable. Everything—from dwellings to complex industrial units—had to be created anew. There were no dwellings—we adapted dugouts and basements; we needed machine tools—we salvaged them from beneath the ruins, from the booty of the Volga; there were no means of transportation—we lugged burdens on our backs. Every one of us was prepared to endure any privations for the sake of our native city—so great and unquenchable is the love in the hearts of the people of Stalingrad for the heroic city

and its soil drenched with the blood of the Soviet people.

The city had to be cleared of the dead bodies of the German-fascist men and of enemy mines. We had to bury over 14700 bodies of German soldiers and officers and render harmless 1,200,000 enemy mines and explosive charges. Work was begun in Stalingrad to build factories, electric power plants, housing, schools, hospitals, kindergartens and nurseries, and to restore the water works and trolley service.

In the days of the defense of our city, when here on the steppes of the Volga the fate of the country was being decided we asked one another: "What have you done for the defense of Stalingrad?"

Now in the days of rehabilitation, when the country has demanded of us the new exertion of all our efforts, we ask one another: "What have you done for the restoration of Stalingrad?"

. . . As we look back on the road we have traveled, we can say with gladness that we have wasted no time.

The Germans barbarously destroyed the first-born of the Stalin Five-Year Plan—the Stalingrad tractor works. They thought that it would never again rise over the Volga. But the factory is rising from its ruins. Eighty-six thousand square meters of floor space have again been made available for production purposes; shop after shop has been added to those again put into operation; the output of products bearing the label "STZ" (Stalingrad tractor works) is increasing.

Enormous damage was caused to the first-class Red October metallurgical plant, which was the scene of particularly fierce fighting. But exactly one-half year after the last shot rang out near the walls of the plant, steel was boiling in its open-hearth furnaces.

The Stalingrad state electric power plant was the target of furious bombings from the air and of fire attacks from enemy artillery. On its premises 600 enemy bombs and 900 artillery shells fell. But only one and one-half months after the final rout of the Germans at the walls of Stalingrad, the lights of the power plant began to burn again and are daily burning brighter.

And so it is wherever you look. The buildings of the Barricades plant, the Kuibyshev works, the Erman works, the Sacco and Vanzetti works, the hydrolysis works, the metalware factory and dozens of others are rising ever higher. For several months now the

fighting fronts have been receiving from Stalingrad formidable weapons with the inscription: "Stalingrad's Reply," and the stream of these products will steadily increase from day to day.

Housing construction is proceeding on an ever large scale. In one year over 11,000 houses have been restored or built anew. Before the frosts set in the people were moved from cold, damp basements, dug-outs and tents to houses.

The people of Stalingrad are working energetically to rehabilitate the cultural life and amenities. The city now has 45 schools, 70 kindergartens, 13 hospitals, 12 out-patient hospitals, a medical institute, five cinemas, 116 shops, 119 restaurants, 12 bakeries, five mechanized bakeries, three flour mills, an oil factory and a candy factory. We have repaired 32 kilometers of water-mains and 22 water pumps; traffic has been resumed on a section of the trolley system; suburban trains and buses run regularly from one end of the city to the other. The postal and telegraph systems function; all districts of the city have been wired for electricity.

Hundreds of citizens have been decorated with orders and medals of the Soviet Union for distinguished service in action and work . . .

Nor do the toilers of the collective farm villages of our Region lag behind the Stalingrad people . . . The German fiends ruined and pillaged the collective farms, machine and tractor stations and the State farms of the districts where they held sway. Many villages were razed to the ground; the Germans wrecked all cultural institutions, took away food supplies and livestock, tormented the Soviet Cossacks, sons of the free Quiet Don, and shipped them off to slavery.

Much labor had to be expended to make life hum anew on the liberated land. From the very first days, collective farmers and workers of the machine and tractor stations and the State farms set out to rehabilitate their former economic and cultural life; they collected and repaired implements, built workshops, livestock and farm dwellings, schools and hospitals. There was a shortage of seed for the spring sowing because the Germans had taken away all the grain. The collective farmers collected 97,000 poods from their personal stocks and in this way managed to sow the entire area.

Good work has been done by the machine and tractor stations in the liberated districts. In our Region the Germans ruined 65 machine and tractor stations, damaged many tractors and destroyed farming implements. The workers toiled industriously and energetically—in the Stalingrad way—to rehabilitate

their machine and tractor stations. At present we have 60 functioning machine and tractor repair shops. Most of them have been working full-blast since last spring . . .

A great deal has been accomplished by the collective farmers to restore livestock raising. The liberated collective farms now have 960 subsidiary livestock farms . . .

The State farms of the Region have delivered to the State more grain than required by the plan. Most collective farms have earnestly and punctiliously fulfilled their quotas of grain deliveries. In the past year our collective farms delivered to the State large quantities of meat, vegetables, wool, butter and eggs. We have also taken care to insure the 1944 harvest. Last autumn a movement was started in the Region to develop the irrigated sections on which a high yield of grain crops could be produced irrespective of weather. Today hundreds of collective farms are hard at work developing sections for irrigation farming; they are building dams, preparing the irrigation apparatus and training irrigators. Most of the area under spring crops is well cultivated—in 1943 we carried out the autumn plowing on an area 10 times as large as 1942.

The collective farmers are determined to make 1944 a year of high crops, a hundred pood yield per hectare . . . We will not spare our efforts to achieve such crops, so as to supply plenty of grain for the front and the country.

The victorious banners of the Red Army are already waving over all the Dnieper; our glorious warriors are driving the enemy westward, step by step clearing the Soviet land of the Hitlerite invaders. The sun of complete victory is over our country.

But we remember, Joseph Vissarionovich, your words that victory does not come itself, that it must be achieved. The enemy has not been finally routed and finished off. A new exertion of effort, more self-sacrificing work on the part of the toilers in the rear, and skilful and determined action on the part of the Red Army at the front will be required to bring about the utter everlasting destruction of the dark forces of the fascist brigands and their extirpation from our Soviet land.

The working people of the city and Region of Stalingrad will always be in the front ranks of fighters for the freedom, honor and independence of our great country . . .

Accept our greetings and best wishes for good health and a long life, dear Joseph Vissarionovich!

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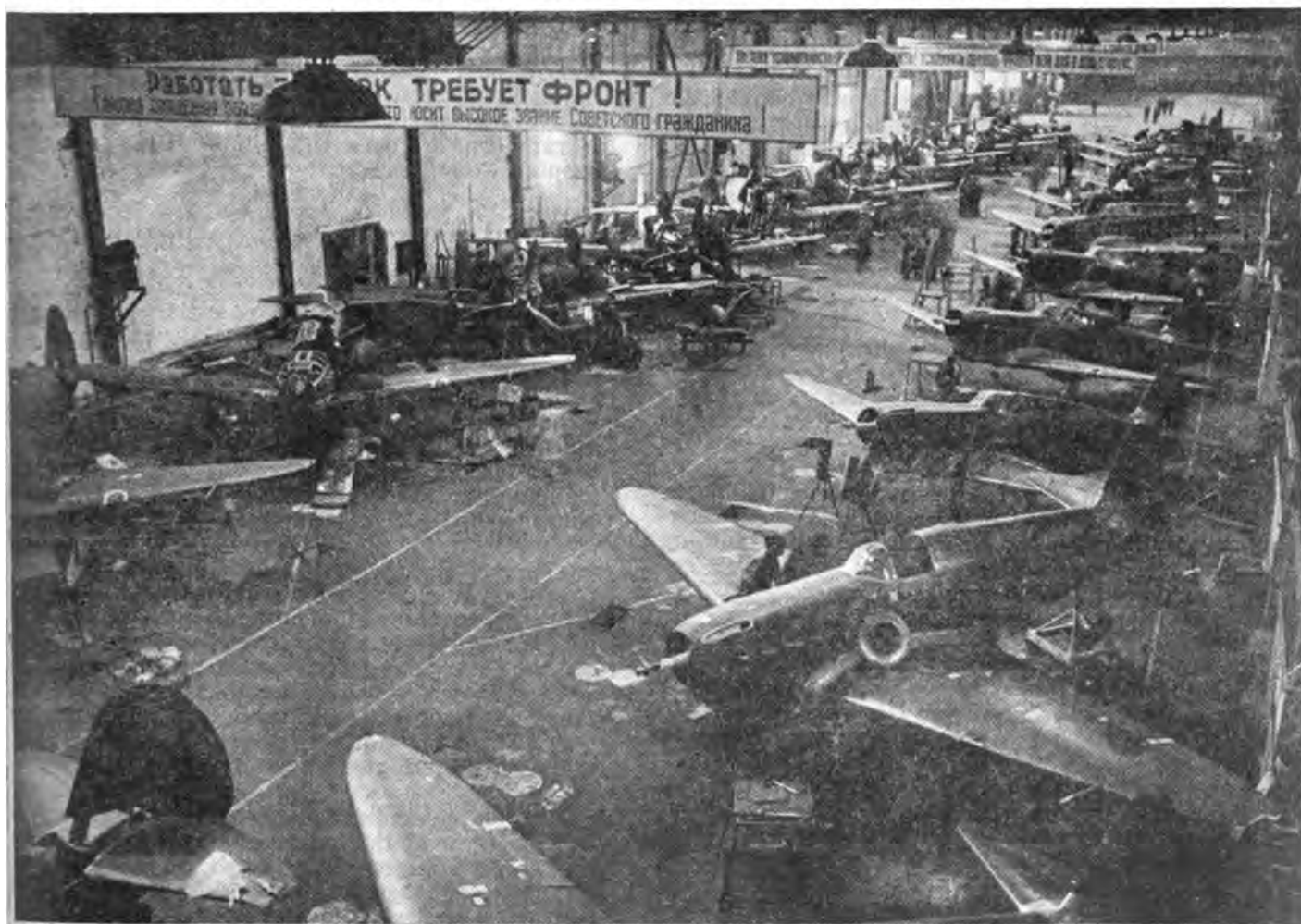
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DECREES PASSED BY SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR

The decree on the State budget of the USSR provides for revenues and expenditures in the sum of 9,575,982,000 rubles. The decree approves the State budgets of the Union Republics for 1944, with the exception of the budgets of the Moldavian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Soviet Socialist Republics, which the decree refers to the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR for consideration. The de-

creed further approves the reports on the execution of State budgets for the years of 1940, 1941 and 1942.

The next decree adopted by the Supreme Soviet, on the creation of army formations of the Union Republics and on the transformation in this connection of the People's Commissariat of Defense from a Union People's Commissariat into a Union-Republic-



The slogan in this plane factory reads: "Work as hard as the front demands! This is the sacred duty of those who carry the great name of Soviet citizen!"

can People's Commissariat, establishes that for the purpose of strengthening the defensive might of the USSR the Union Republics shall organize army formations of the Republics; Article 14 of the Constitution, which lists the matters within the competence of the USSR as represented by its highest organs, is supplemented by a clause stating that besides the functions of the "organization of the defense of the USSR and the direction of all armed forces of the USSR" previously placed by the Constitution within the competence of the Union, within its competence comes also "the laying down of the guiding principles for the organization of army formations of the Union Republics"; a new Article—18-B—is added to the Constitution which reads: "Every Union Republic has its own Republican army formations"; Article 60 of the Constitution of the USSR, defining the competence of the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics, is supplemented by a clause of the following content: "Establishes the procedure of the creation of Republican army formations"; the People's Commissariat of Defense is transformed from a Union into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

The third decree passed by the Supreme Soviet, on granting powers to the Union Republics in the sphere of external relations and on the transformation in this connection of the People's Commissariat of Foreign

Affairs from a Union into a Union-Republican Commissariat, establishes that for the purpose of the expansion of international connections and the strengthening of cooperation of the USSR with other states, and considering the increased need of the Union Republics for establishing direct relations with foreign states, the Union Republics may enter into direct relations with foreign states and conclude agreements with them; Article 14 of the Constitution is supplemented by a clause which reads that the competence of Union organs, in addition to functions previously entrusted to them of "representation of the Union in international relations, conclusion of treaties with other states," also includes "laying down of the general procedure in the mutual relations of the Union Republics with foreign states"; Article 18-A is added to the Constitution of the Union of the following content: "Every Union Republic has the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states, conclude agreements with them and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives"; Article 60 dealing with the competence of the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republics is supplemented by a clause of the following content: "Establishes the representation of the Union Republic in international relations"; the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR is transformed from a Union into a Union-Republican People's Commissariat.

A VILLAGE STRONGHOLD

By Captain I. Glushko

A two-story building stood like a fortress among the ruins of this Ukrainian village. One corner of it jutted into the square. Its stone walls and cellars were excellent for defense, and the Germans made the most of them.

Two groups of Red Army men swarmed along parallel side streets and prepared to take the stronghold by storm. The infantrymen knew the building well—the distribution of the rooms, the cellar entrances, the windows and the staircases.

Noon was zero hour. A Soviet grouping from the south gained the walls of the building without particular difficulty. Two tommy gunners reached their positions, while the rest sprayed the windows and embrasures with lead. Two more tommy gunners joined the first pair and promptly opened fire on the building in their turn. The rest skipped across one by one.

At the word of command the entire group dashed forward. Firing from the hip, every man had his objective. Some went for the windows, others for the doors. Before we went inside, the building was disinfected with a generous shower of hand-grenades.

A second Soviet grouping came up against difficulties. Their first attack went wrong. The ap-

proaches to the building were swept by machine-gun fire from the neighboring structures. Sappers solved the problem by diffusing a smoke screen which enveloped all the surrounding buildings. The enemy guns faltered. Surprisingly accurate bursts from the Soviet machine guns dazed and demoralized the German tommy gunners and at last the attackers were able to penetrate to their objective.

The Red Army men divided into two groups: one fought on the upper floor and another on the ground floor. A machine gunner kept his weapon trained on the entrance to prevent Nazi reserves from reaching the spot. Hand-grenades and tommy guns blazed away. In one room after another the door was ripped from its hinges, a grenade flew inside, and then a burst of tommy-gun fire prepared the way for the tommy gunner himself.

Though the men acted swiftly and well, the fighting in this sector of the building dragged out. A Soviet reserve squad came up to finish the job. Guided by the rattle of machine guns and grenade bursts, they blew out a section of a wall, plunged through the aperture into the thick of the Nazis, and with withering cross-fire wiped out the enemy to the last man. The fascist strongpoint was now firmly in Soviet hands.

THE BYELORUSSIAN PEOPLE

The history of Byelorussia goes back many, many centuries. There was a time when the Byelorussians, Russians and Ukrainians held common lands, spoke the same old Russian language and had a common culture. This was at the time of Kiev Rus. With the feudal division of territories, Kiev Rus began to weaken and eventually broke up into a number of principalities, in 14 of which—Polotsk, Turov, Pinsk, Grodno, Minsk, Brest and others—the process of the formation of the Byelorussian people began.

The Byelorussian people, beautifying and fructifying the soil with the labor of their hands, made their contribution to the common treasury of Slav culture. The lands which stretched from the Niemen to the upper reaches of the Dnieper, and from the Western Bug to the Bug and the Pripyet, the industrious Byelorussians built the towns of Turov and Pinsk, Polotsk and Vitebsk, Nesvizh and Grodno, Mogilev and Minsk, Gomel and Brest. Many of these towns have existed for a thousand years. In these lands the culture of the Byelorussian people was developed and their national character and peculiarities formed.

Struggle for Independence for Many Centuries

On many occasions strong enemies tried to enslave the Byelorussian people. Armed bands of the Polotsk and Minsk princes, fighting together with the forces of Russian princes, inflicted constant defeats on the autonomous and Livonian knights. The Byelorussians have always played a tremendous part in counteracting the German "Drang nach Osten."

The geographical contiguity of the Byelorussian and Polish peoples has long given them a strong material and cultural common purpose. In the days of great trials the two peoples joined forces; this happened, for example, in the 15th Century, on the battlefield of Gruenwald, when Russians, Byelorussians, Poles and Lithuanians fought together to defeat the German troops.

It was by no means uncommon, however, for the Polish feudal aristocracy who headed the Polish state to make attempts to seize Byelorussian lands in order to build luxurious castles and enrich themselves at the cost of the people's blood. They paid no heed to the needs of the Polish people, and still less to those of the Byelorussian people. The boundaries of Rzeczpospolita, at times exaggeratedly expanded, were not therefore enduring. At every change in the political and the frontiers of Poland collapsed, and the oppressed Polish, Byelorussian and Ukrainian people strove to unite their forces, seeking help and support from the great fraternal Russian people with whom they were linked by century-old blood ties.

Revolts of the Byelorussian people against their oppressors, the Polish landowners and Lithuanian nobility, were of frequent occurrence. The memory of the people still retains the names of Vladimir, Prince of Polotsk, and Vasilievsky, Prince of Minsk, who defended their native land against the German invaders, and the names of the national heroes—Nalivaiko, Krivoschapka, Garkusha, Galoto, Voschila and Glinsky—who defended the country from the Polish and Lithuanian usurpers.

Great Cultural Heritage of Byelorussians

The Byelorussian people produced warrior titans and great thinkers. The writer and philosopher Kiril of Turov, the early printer and enlightener Georgi Skorina of Polotsk, Semyon Polotsky, Yevfrosinya Polotskaya, Vasili Tyapinsky, Bogushevich Bogdanovich, Janka Kupala and the people's poet Yakub Kolas—these are names of which our people are justly proud.

The territory known as Western Byelorussia was not a special, separate district of our country. The name itself only arose after the Riga Treaty was signed with Poland in 1921. Part of the territory inhabited by Ukrainians and Byelorussians became the property of the Polish nobles and landowners after the conclusion of this unjust treaty. It was then that the territory became known as Western Byelorussia. In the eastern district of Byelorussia, which formed part of the USSR, the Byelorussian people successfully continued the development of their economy and culture. During those same years Western Byelorussia was under the heel of aristocrat-ridden Poland. The Polish nobility made a colony of Western Byelorussia and wastefully destroyed its natural resources. This, for example, is what the Polish newspaper *Wieczor Warszawski* wrote about the conditions of the Byelorussian peasantry in 1938:

"The peasants of Western Byelorussia have ceased to use iron axes because the old ones have worn out and there is no money for new ones. When they have to chop something they do it with stone axes, made after the fashion of prehistoric times. They no longer use iron nails, replacing them with spikes. Nobody shoes a horse; fortunately the ground is soft and it is a pity to waste iron. Even the tiniest piece of iron is a treasure to the Polessye peasant. Every piece of iron he can find is hoarded, reforged and remade dozens of times."

The peasant of Western Byelorussia abandoned the iron plow for the wooden plow and hoe. This antediluvian method of tilling impoverished the soil. Extreme poverty and hunger prevailed in the Byelorussian villages ruined by the Polish aristocrats. The

Polish nobles did not even trouble to hide the fact that their rule was making for the spreading of darkness and ignorance in the Byelorussian villages. The Polish government sent out punitive expeditions against the Byelorussians, set up military field tribunals, made extensive use of the weapon of terror and incited national hatred between the Poles and Byelorussians.

According to the Polish census, the land of Western Byelorussia was distributed as follows: nine per cent of the landed estates owned 40.5 per cent of the land; four and three-tenths per cent of the rich farms owned 10.3 per cent, and 95 per cent of the poor and middle-sized peasant farms occupied 49.1 per cent. The average landed estate of a Polish noble consisted of over 500 hectares, the rich farmer owned 28 hectares and the poor peasant averaged two and seven-tenths hectares. The best lands were held by the Polish nobles and by "colonists," those faithful dogs of the Polish aristocracy. They took the best land away from the Byelorussian peasants and drove them into the sands and swamps. About 94 per cent of the forest lands were in the hands of the landowners and the state.



A gun crew changes its position for direct fire

Western Byelorussia was a source of cheap raw materials and cheap labor power for the Polish landowners; it was a territory of Polish colonization and a market for the products of Polish industry. All capital investments were made in Central Poland, while the eastern "kresy" (outskirts) were without any developed industry. The Polish nobility ruined even the little industry that had remained in Western Byelorussia from Tsarist days.

In September, 1939, the Red Army took the lives and property of the people of Western Byelorussia under its protection, brought them out of the evil war and liberated them from Polish national oppression. The working people of Western Byelorussia them-

selves decided the question of the form their state was to take.

The reunited Byelorussians were jubilant. Brilliant prospects opened before the people for the further improvement of the nation's economy and culture. The peasants of Western Byelorussia received over 430,000 hectares of land formerly belonging to Polish aristocrats and colonists, and were given livestock, farm machinery and tools. During 1940 over 15,000 horses and 33,000 cows were distributed among the peasants of Western Byelorussia; 101 machine and tractor stations were organized, with 1,500 tractors, 2,000 motor trucks and several thousand farm machines.

Industry began to develop rapidly. In 1940 the industrial output increased by 70 per cent. In a very short time the Dnieper-Bug Canal was dug, an engineering work of great economic and cultural importance. It enabled the peasants of western Polesye who had for centuries suffered from land poverty to drain hundreds of thousands of hectares of malarial swamp and turn them into fertile fields and meadows. Within a very short time unemployment was completely eliminated in Western Byelorussia, and universal education was introduced.

The Byelorussian people have never harbored hatred toward the Polish people. They hated only the Polish aristocrats. The Polish national minority living in Western Byelorussia therefore enjoyed exactly the same rights as the Byelorussians. In addition to Byelorussian schools, 932 Polish schools, a Polish theater and Polish clubs were opened. In Minsk a full-sized daily newspaper, the *Sztandar Wolnosci*, was published in Polish, and there was also a newspaper for children in Polish.

Today the fate of Poland, the same as the fate of the Byelorussian peoples, is being decided on the battlefields of the Soviet Union. The Red Army is fighting for the interests of all freedom-loving democratic peoples, including the Poles. The Polish people suffering under the heel of the German-fascist jackboot realize this. Together with the Byelorussians, Poles are fighting in the ranks of the guerrilla columns against the hated German occupationists.

The reactionaries among the Polish exiles in America and in Great Britain do not understand this and do not want to understand it. The war is not yet ended, the enemy has not yet been finally defeated, but they are already scheming adventures for the future, dreaming of seizing the lands of the Byelorussians and Ukrainians.

Only ethnographical boundaries between Poland and Byelorussia delineated in accordance with just international law can guarantee the freedom, national independence and prosperity of the two peoples.

THE WESTERN UKRAINE

By Professor E. N. Petrovsky

Professor Petrovsky, Doctor of Historical Science, is a member of the faculty of the Institute of History of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

Of all the Ukrainians, the people of Western Ukraine—i. e., East Galicia and northwest Volyn—have for many long years carried on exceptionally intensive struggles to retain their national character, language and culture and for the right to form a united Ukraine.

In ancient times the West Ukrainian lands were inhabited by East Slav tribes, Croats, Dulebs and Ulich. When the East Slav Kiev State was formed in the second half of the Ninth Century, with its center the town of Kiev, they formed a part of this state. The principalities which formed East Galicia were closely connected with Kiev Rus, not only on account of their common origin, but also by their community of language, religion, culture, customs, laws and social structure. These ties remained after the fall of Kiev Rus in the second half of the 12th Century.

At the end of the 12th Century the powerful Galician Volyn principality was formed. Its Princes, Roman (who died in 1205) and Danilo (in 1264), held sway over Kiev. For a number of years Danilo repulsed all attempts of the Poles, Hungarians and Germans to seize his lands. At the end of the 14th Century Poland seized East Galicia, and in the 16th Century Volyn and a number of other Ukrainian territories.

The Ukrainian population of East Galicia, who for hundreds of years were under the Polish yoke, continued to call their country "Rus,"—"Chervonaya Rus"—(Red Rus), and called themselves Ruthenians or Ukrainians. Even the Polish government was forced to take this into consideration. Wojewodstwo, which they organized in the territory of East Galicia in 1435, was called by them "Wojewodstwo Russkije" and it bore this name for hundreds of years. On the maps of Europe between the 15th and 18th Centuries (maps by N. Cousin, S. Muenster, I. Pleitner, G. Beauplant and a number of others), East Galicia was shown as "Rus."

Those who are well acquainted with the East Europe of the 16th and 17th Centuries state that East Galicia is in the Ukraine and not in Poland. Blaise de Vignaire, who wrote in 1573 a description of Poland and her neighbors for Henri Valois, elected King of Poland, stated that East Galicia was part of the Ukraine. G. Beauplant, well-known French engineer who lived in Poland and the Ukraine for 20 years and wrote his excellent *Description de l'Ukraine*, a book which has been translated into all

important European languages, speaks of the Ukraine as a country "which lies between Muscovy and Transylvania." As can be seen by this, Beauplant also included East Galicia in the Ukraine.

East Galicia (the vast majority of whose inhabitants have always been Ukrainians), was always connected with the remaining Ukrainian lands by all its threads of life. The beauty and pride of Ukrainian epic poetry, the famous *Historical Thoughts*, were first composed in East Galicia and from there spread to other parts of the Ukraine; and among the Cossacks,



Tommy gunners under cover of a tank storm a fortified enemy strongpoint

gallant fighters for the national independence of the Ukraine, there were always many Galicians. The invincible Cossack leader, Hetman Peter Sagaidachny (who died in 1622) was a Galician.

The Ukrainian people have always wanted to reunite Galicia with the units of the Ukrainian state. The great Hetman Bogdan Khmelnytsky (who incidentally was educated in Galicia), announced in 1649

that "the whole of Rus," that is, Galicia, including the towns of Lvov and Galich, should form a part of the Ukrainian state. To the end of his life Khmelnytsky fought to reunite "the whole of Chervonaya Rus, as far as the Vistula," into a single Ukrainian state.

From the end of the 18th Century, East Galicia was under the heel of Austria, who entrusted the execution of law in these parts to Polish landlords. The Ukrainians, however, even under these conditions did not permit any Polonization, or Germanization. P. Kulish, a well-known Ukrainian public figure of the 19th Century, spoke eloquently of the solidarity of the Galicians with other Ukrainians: "Our brother beyond the Danube or in Poltava sings, and his voice is heard in Lvov and Beskady. The Galician Rus in the foothills of the Carpathians groans, and the hearts of the people on the Dnieper feel pain."

After the World War of 1914-18, Poland should have consisted only of her own ethnographical regions, as shown by the Curzon line. The Western Ukraine did not form a part of Poland. The frontiers according to the Curzon line, accepted by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers, provided for the inclusion of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia into the Soviet Union.

In 1919 Poland started war again Soviet Russia. When Pilsudski began this war, he intended taking the whole of the Ukraine. Under the blows of the Red Army, Poland was compelled to abandon this adventure. Pilsudski, however, succeeded in seizing the Western Ukraine by force and imposing on the frontiers of the Soviet State the Riga Treaty of 1921, under which these lands remained under the heel of Poland.

Although according to Paragraph Seven of the Riga Treaty the Polish government undertook to give to the Ukrainians, Russians and Byelorussians living within the Polish state special rights insuring their cultural development and preserving their native tongues, this obligation was not observed. For years the Polish government cultivated national oppression of the Ukrainians. They kept the Western Ukraine in the position of a colony. The Polish government gave orders for the Western Ukraine to be called "Little Poland."

Fifty per cent of the Ukrainian peasant farms owned no horses, and only 47 per cent of them had cows. The working day was 10 to 12 hours, and at times as much as 16 hours. The consumption of sugar in some places was reduced by 93 per cent, salt by 72 per cent, coal by 50 per cent. In 1919 there were 3,662 Ukrainian schools in the Western Ukraine, of which only 135 remained by 1939. Of 61 Ukrainian gymnasia (high schools) only five remained. The

number of illiterates reached 60 per cent. The Ukrainian language was driven from state institutions by the Polish government.

The prisons were filled with Ukrainians who fought for their freedom and for the affiliation of the Western Ukraine with the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. Even under the bloody "pacification" carried out by the Polish government in 1930, when the Ukrainian population was subjected to the cruelest measures, to wholesale floggings, shootings and imprisonments, the people's will to achieve liberty was not broken. The Western Ukraine was waiting for her hour to strike.

In September, 1939 the Polish-German war broke out. The Poland of Beck and his associates, who had been helping Germany dismember Czechoslovakia, herself became an object of German aggression. The Red Army took its kith and kin, the people of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, under its protection.

On October 22, 1939 elections to the National Assembly of the Western Ukraine were carried out throughout the whole country on the basis of equal, direct and secret universal suffrage. All inhabitants of the Western Ukraine over the age of 18, irrespective of race, nationality, religion, social origin, property status and past activities were entitled to vote. This was a real plebiscite of the whole people.

The elections expressed the will of the people. Of an electorate of 4,776,275 people, 4,433,397 went to the polls—i. e., 92.8 per cent of the total electorate. On October 26, 27 and 28, 1939, the National Assembly decided unanimously to request the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to accept the Western Ukraine into the USSR as part of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. The Ukrainian people were reunited in a single Ukrainian state. The liberated people of the Western Ukraine were at last able to breathe freely.

From 50 to 70 per cent of the arable land of the Western Ukraine formerly belonged to the landowners. This land was handed over to the peasants. Ukrainian became the state language. Ukrainian culture was able to develop on an extensive scale. Lvov University became a Ukrainian University and was given the name of Ivan Franko, a Galician, one of the great sons of the Ukraine.

At the same time, the Polish language and culture were given every possibility for development. Wanda Wasilewska, a Polish writer, was elected Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The Western Ukraine, by freely expressed will and election, became part of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic, an integral unit of the USSR. Nothing can tear the Western Ukraine from the family of Soviet peoples.

Out with Finnish Invaders from Soviet Soil!

The following editorial appeared in IZVESTIA on February 8:

One month ago a number of Finnish newspapers printed a circularized article emanating from the leadership of the Linkomies government coalition party. The article said: "The longer the war lasts, the more the strength of the Soviet Union is expended, the greater and more decisive (!) will become our own military power in comparison with the enemy's reduced strength. Consequently we should not regret that the war continues . . ."

Soon, very soon the Finnish invaders will have to greatly "regret that the war continues." So far Hitler's Finnish allies have once more openly demonstrated that they cling fast to their bandit plans of conquests, and even now still dream of the formation of a "greater Finland" through the capture of Soviet lands. It is known that the little Ryti-Mannerheim Finland displayed a big imperialistic appetite. Her short body proved to have the mouth of a crocodile whose teeth she has bared more than once. The time at which she began the war by joining the Hitlerite "campaign to the East" is no secret to anyone. In the official pamphlet published in 1942 by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs it was stated with sufficient clarity that "Finland fights not merely, not only for her safety but she wages this struggle against Bolshevism."

In his sensational book which came out in Berlin, Jalmar Jakkola decided this "not merely, not only" in a very definite manner. "The Soviet Union," he wrote, "must cede to Finland eastern Karelia and the Kola Region as far as the new frontier which passes the south and east waterway connecting Lake Ladoga and the White Sea."

Other Finnish "public figures," having discarded all self-restraint, presented claims to Leningrad and to the Leningrad Region.

Such were the aims with which Finland entered the war, joining in Hitlerite Germany's attack on the USSR or, as President of the Finnish Diet Hakkila put it elegantly, "having fastened upon it with real political activity." In his order at the very outbreak of the war the Hitlerite underling Mannerheim set the aim of conquering Karelia and creating a "greater Finland."

The Finnish Social Democrats trotted along after Hitler, advancing in their newspaper *Suomen Sosialdemokratit* a demand for "overstepping historical boundaries and seizing remote areas." The severe defeats which the German-fascist army suffered on

the Soviet-German front compelled the Finnish invaders to bridle their tongues. Like all other Hitlerite Germany's associates in plunder, the Finnish invaders began to cast glances about in search of escape. The Finnish crocodile squeezed out tears and began to talk about "its own segregated war" which allegedly has nothing in common with Hitler's campaign. However the false whiskers of a good-natured old man were poorly fixed on the Finnish bandit's face—they fell off very quickly. The Finnish newspaper *Ayan Suunta* wrote in this connection: "Let it be understood everywhere that Finland cannot and does not want to down arms until the victorious completion of the crusade. Any private segregated war for Finland is out of the question."

From the very first day of the war to this day, Finland participates in the war as Hitlerite Germany's true ally and aids the seizure and plunder of other people's lands. Not for a single minute do the Soviet people forget that for over two years the Finnish invaders have been engaged in an orgy of brigandage on the Soviet land in that part of Soviet Karelia which they have seized, that they have inflicted innumerable bloody wounds on Leningrad, by shelling jointly with the Hitlerites its population and by bombing Leningrad from the air. The Finnish invaders vie with the Germans in atrocity and cruelties. The groans and screams of the Soviet population tormented by Finnish bandits fly to us from the fraternal Karelo-Finnish Republic whose territory the Mannerheim satraps have temporarily captured.

Now that fear of responsibility and retribution gains the upper hand over the bloodthirsty appetites of the Finnish bandits, they try to disguise their guilt in vain. Thus recently they invited Swedish journalists to visit Soviet Karelia occupied by the Finns. What did the neutral journalists see there? At the close of January the *Svenska Dagbladet* correspondent described his visit to a camp of . . . women war prisoners! The Finns classed the female population of Karelia as war prisoners! "The impression was strange: we saw girls," the correspondent writes, "their eyes flashing with hatred and indignation."

The *Dagens Nyheter* correspondent writes of another camp where "half the prisoners were women and invalids." He relates how thousands of Soviet people died from starvation in the camps. The newspaper *Stockholms Tidningen* tells about the corporal punishment to which the Finns subject the inmates of the camps, about the flogging and whipping. The Danish writer Hersholdt Hansen in the book *In the Wake of the War* writes about the situation in Finnish-occupied Soviet Karelia: "I had the opportunity

to visit collective farms where the peasants who still remained had to subsist on potatoes and salt. They could not get a break from the invaders . . . The peasants starved terribly. I doubt that I could convince them that they have been 'liberated' . . . The people 'liberated' by Mannerheim do not want to know anything about the Finns . . ."

The sufferings of our brothers on the territory of the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Republic captured by the Finnish bandits cry out for revenge and retribution. We have not forgotten them!

The Red Army drives the German invaders from the Ukrainian and the Byelorussian land. It completes the clearing of the Leningrad Region and is already beginning to clear the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic from the fascist vermin—it will expel the Finnish invaders from the Soviet soil too! The war has taught the frenzied Finnish imperialists nothing. They cling to their conquests, to their dream of territorial expansion. They still see a "greater Finland as far as the White Sea and the Urals, as far as the Enissey River" in their dreams. And now these reptiles cringing before Hitler declare that they wish to "extend Finland east to Petrozavodsk."

They had better be careful lest they see the Red Army defending the USSR at Helsinki itself! The hour of retribution is approaching. Already, two days

ago the wings of a powerful group of Soviet aircraft roared over the Finnish capital; destructive bombs already call on Helsinki. Devastating fires and explosions are doing their business.

Let the ruins of Helsinki fall, in the first place, on the heads of Finland's fascist rulers! The howling of the hyena sounds like weeping but it does not deceive even simpletons. The Finns' fascist government camp has already whined much, but through all this whining sounds the voice of imperialist beasts of prey: "We should not regret that the war continues . . ."

Well, if they refuse to regret it today, they will doubly regret it tomorrow. Hitlerite Germany's associates in plunder are mistaken if they think that the clash with the main forces of the Hitlerite army can divert the Soviet people from settling accounts with the Finnish invaders.

They still hope, as the Finnish press recently wrote, that the "prolongation of the great war may prove a positive factor for those forces (read Hitlerite forces) with which we jointly strive for the successful outcome of the struggle." This hope will not come true! There will be no "prolongation." The outcome of the war is predetermined for the Finnish invaders as well. They won't escape into the bushes with their loot! Out with the Finnish invaders from Soviet soil!—such is the voice of the Soviet people.

Canadian Award for Red Army Medical Chief

Colonel General of the Medical Service Efim Smirnov, Chief of the Red Army Medical Service, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada. Smirnov, who has proved himself a talented young general during the war against the German invaders, was graduated from the Military Medical Academy and then studied in the Frunze Red Army Military Academy.

Since 1939 Smirnov has been in charge of the Red Army Medical Service, and has made a careful study of the experience of both Russian and foreign army medical services in past wars.

Colonel General Smirnov has placed the Red Army Medical Service, from the front lines to the deep rear, on a scientific basis. Special field therapeutics for the organized treatment of general diseases in the field and in the rear have been created for the first time. Surgical aid has been moved as near to the

front as possible. One of the achievements of the Medical Service is the complete prevention of epidemic diseases in the Soviet Army during the war.

During the war Colonel General Smirnov defended his thesis and received the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences. Although he could have obtained his degree without publicly defending the thesis, the scientist and talented organizer preferred hearing criticism, and publicly defended his paper on the organization of medical service to troops during war.

Conference on Folk Art in Wartime

The Soviet Government's Committee for Art Affairs is convening a national conference on the folk art of the war. Among those who will take part are bards from various regions, performers on folk instruments and experts on folklore. The conference will hear reports on Central Asiatic folklore inspired by the defeat of the German troops before Moscow.

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The Soviet Budget—A Vivid Demonstration of the People's Heroism

By Professor M. Bogolepov

Soviet armed forces are covering themselves with glory in the hard and implacable struggle against the contemporary Huns who have enslaved vast territories of western Europe and laid waste a large part of the Soviet Union in Europe. The heroic armies which are successfully driving the fascist beast to his lair are backed by heroic people who work day and

night forging arms to annihilate the mortal enemy of freedom-loving nations.

The heroism of the Soviet people finds expression not only in so remarkable a fact as the failure of the Germans and Finns to achieve anything by their more than two years' siege of Leningrad, a city that em-



Skiing in the snow-covered forests of the USSR

bodies the invincible spirit, the unsurpassed courage of the Soviet people. This heroism completely pervades the everyday life and activities of the great country and is vividly reflected in all matters, great and small, connected with the struggle against the enemy.

A careful study of the three wartime budgets of the Soviet State shows that in this sphere too—in the sphere of financing the war effort—the same all-encompassing heroism of the fighting Soviet people is strikingly manifest.

The direct war expenditures of the Soviet Union, i. e., the expenditures for maintaining, equipping and supplying the Soviet Armies on the entire far-flung, active and mobile front, total about 350,000,000 rubles daily. In the first year and a half these expenditures amounted to about 300,000,000 rubles daily. The task of meeting these huge sums would not have presented any serious difficulties if the enemy had not in the first year of war managed, as a result of his treacherous attack, to seize large areas of densely populated and economically important Soviet territory.

Indeed the report of the fulfillment of the budget for the last prewar year, 1940 shows that in that year the revenues of the State amounted to 500,000,000 rubles daily. Under pressure of necessity they could be increased without particular difficulty, and by the exercise of retrenchment in regard to peacetime requirements, a necessary 300,000,000 to 350,000,000 rubles daily could be obtained for waging war.

But the daily revenue of 500,000,000 rubles came from the entire territory of the Soviet Union and was made up primarily of the income of State-owned enterprises. The capture by the Germans of fertile and industrial regions of the USSR considerably reduced the base of the Soviet budget.

From the very first days of war it was clear that the enemy based his calculations on the economic and financial disorganization of the Soviet Union. But these calculations proved utterly wrong. The enemy failed to correctly assess the economic might of the USSR and the true heroism of the Soviet people. The budget for 1944 just adopted by the Supreme Soviet is balanced at 249,000,000,000 rubles, representing an increase of 38.5 per cent over the budget of 1940. When this budget for 249,000,000,000 rubles was being drawn up, part of the territory of the Soviet Union was still under the heel of the Germans, and large expanses already liberated from the contemporary barbarians lay in ruins. Consequently it is the work and energy of the people in that part of the Soviet Union unaffected by the fascist invasion which has made good the revenue losses resulting from German occupation and ruin and has made it pos-

sible to increase the budget by 38.5 per cent as compared with the peace year of 1940.

The extent of the revenue increases in places which remained inaccessible to the Germans may be gauged from the budget of the city of Moscow, for instance. The 1942 revenues which went to cover the budget of the city of Moscow amounted to 1,100,000,000, in 1943 to 1,800,000,000 rubles, and the estimate for 1944 is 2,000,000,000 rubles. We have purposely taken as an example the budget of Moscow which, like the budgets of other cities, comprises part of the general budget of the USSR. For a long period Moscow was close to the front, and about half of the Moscow Region was laid waste by the fascist scoundrels. Nevertheless Moscow went on working successfully, as evidenced by the growth of its budget.

In the energetic work of the Soviet people and in their patriotic fervor lies the explanation of the unquestionable financial successes of the Soviet Union. This idea was well expressed in a speech during a debate on the budget in the Supreme Soviet by Deputy Dinmuhametov of the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Republic. He stated that the aged persons and women who stayed at home told their menfolk who had gone to the front:

The hammers from which the sparks flew when wielded by your strong arms are not lying idle on the ground, the machines at which you worked have not stopped running, the scythes with which you mowed the hay have not grown rusty, the tractors and the harvester combines whose clatter filled the free fields have not come to a standstill, the fire has not gone out in the fireboxes of the locomotives and furnaces and steamships. Your fathers, mothers and sisters have replaced you at your machines and in the collective farm fields.

Vast quantities of industrial equipment were successfully evacuated from the districts threatened by invasion, and they served as a basis for the speedy resumption of production in new districts far removed from the front. The switching over to a wartime economy, the resumption of operations by evacuated enterprises in new locations, the quick and successful building of new plants and the considerable expansion of the existing ones—all involved large budget expenditures.

Direct war expenditures for 1944 will consume about 52 per cent of the revenues, or a little more than half. From the other half, 44,700,000,000 rubles (24.7 per cent) is to be invested in the national economy, primarily in industrial construction. In 1941 such expenditures comprised over 31,000,000,000 rubles. The increase in the appropriations of the 1944 budget on economic investments, amounting to 43.7 per cent over 1943, is largely due to the fact that

immediately the enemy is expelled from any district, energetic work begins to rehabilitate its economy.

The remarkable feature of Soviet wartime budgets is the fact that despite the strain on the resources to finance the war effort, large funds are appropriated to satisfy the social and cultural requirements of the population. The 1943 expenditures on such requirements totaled over 37,000,000,000 rubles. The budget for 1944 appropriates 51,400,000,000 to most of these requirements (an increase of 38.2 per cent). Scientific institutes, schools and medical institutions, far from narrowing the scope of their activities, have expanded them.

One of the principal reasons for the brilliant victories scored by the Soviet Armies is that they draw their manpower from a population which in the last two decades has risen to a considerably higher cultural level. The cultural revolution has extended to all parts of the great country and the expenditures on cultural requirements are shown particularly in the rapid rise in those parts where until recently age-old backwardness was the rule. For example, in the 1944 budget of the Turkmenian SSR the expenditures on social and cultural services represent 64 per cent of the total expenditures of the Republic and are triple the amount expended in 1941.

In wartime as in times of peace the principal source of the Soviet Union's revenues is income from State-

owned and cooperative enterprises and property. This source accounts for 150,000,000,000 rubles, or over 60 per cent of the total 1944 budget. Revenues from the population which have increased in wartime account for 39,000,000,000 rubles (about 16 per cent of the total) and subscriptions to loans for 24,000,000,000 rubles (about 10 per cent).

The floating of loans among the population has met with great success. All loans have been considerably over-subscribed in a short period of time. In addition to the loans the population in its patriotic enthusiasm has already contributed over 13,000,000,000 rubles to the Defense Fund, which is made up entirely of voluntary contributions. To this Fund there comes a stream not only of cash, but of grain, gold and silver. The women and girls of Turkmenia contributed over seven and one-half tons of gilded silver articles cherished as family heirlooms for ages.

The huge State budget of the USSR, which comprises the budget of the federation of the several republics and the local self-government bodies represents a gigantic force. At present this force is directed mainly toward bringing about the speediest defeat of the enemy and the clearing of the Soviet territory from the insolent robber hordes. Tomorrow, when the sun of victory rises over the world, the might and constructive force of the Soviet budget will again be used to forge the national wealth and prosperity of the Soviet peoples.

VAST RESTORATION ACHIEVED IN 1943

By Nikolai Matyushkin

The year 1943 marked a turn in the course of the war against the German invaders. It also marked the beginning of the work of restoration in the districts temporarily occupied by them. The Soviet people proved able not only to repel the most violent attacks of the enemy and to hurl him back far to the west, but also to launch the work of reconstruction despite wartime difficulties.

In 1943 the Red Army liberated about two-thirds of the territory occupied by the enemy. The restoration of these areas is a great national task. On August 21, 1943 the Soviet Government adopted a comprehensive program for their economic and cultural rehabilitation. It was decided to return to the collective farms the cattle evacuated to the eastern regions, to return tractors and machines and to restore machine and tractor stations and repair shops. A plan was drawn up for the repair and new construction of housing facilities for collective farmers, workers and office employees, and also for the restoration of the railroads. The first step in the program was to put into operation all factories that could directly or indirectly produce for the front.

The difficulties involved are enormous. In the Moscow Region, for example, the damage caused by the Germans in the occupied districts exceeds seven billion rubles. In the Orel Region the Germans took from collective farms 12,000 horses, 60,000 head of cattle, 334,000 poultry and 82,000 tons of grain. In the Smolensk Region they destroyed 30 cities and 2,000 villages. The damage to the coal industry in the Donbas is estimated according to preliminary data at two billion rubles.

The work of rehabilitation began literally on the day after the expulsion of the enemy. Soviet citizens are not daunted by the appalling difficulties. Collective farm cattle-breeders of the Sychevka District, Smolensk Region, expressed the spirit of the people in these words: "Life has come back to us; our fate is in our own hands. No matter what difficulties may confront us, we will overcome them; no matter how much work is to be done, we will do it." Within two months the farmers of this region, with Government assistance, repaired 12,847 damaged houses and built 12,664 new ones; 14,330 persons were moved to decent dwellings from dugouts where the Germans had

driven them. During this same period 8,726 apartments accommodating over 21,000 people were built in the cities of the Smolensk Region.

Difficulties which at first seemed insurmountable have been overcome by initiative and heroic labor. Damaged machines and equipment have been put to work; machine parts are salvaged from heaps of rubble and ashes. Supplies and equipment concealed by Soviet patriots from the German robbers are constantly turning up. At the Maxim Gorky machine and tractor station in the Voronezh Region, for example, workers buried parts of machines and tools in the ground, and these proved of great help in the rehabilitation work.

When the members of the Red Partisan collective farm on the Don were ordered by a German commandant to drive their cattle to the west, they mapped out a special route and for 13 days drove the cattle through ravines in a circle around the village. On the 14th day the Red Army arrived and chased the Germans from the district. Thus the entire herd was saved.

The Red Bogatyr collective farm succeeded in saving all its seed grain, which had been distributed among the members of the collective farms by the chairman, who told them: "Guard the seed as the apple of your eye, and when Soviet power returns we will have the wherewithal to sow."

The population of the entire country is helping the liberated districts to an ever-increasing extent. The Novosibirsk Region sent over 23,000 head of live stock and several thousand plows to the Voronezh Region. Thousands of tractor drivers, combine operators, mechanics, agricultural experts and bookkeepers have come from various parts of the country to work in the Krasnodar territory. The workers of the aircraft

industry of the USSR undertook to rebuild the Stalingrad October plant at their own expense, and the workers of the tank industry are helping to restore the plants at Stalingrad, Kharkov and in the Donbas.

The roots of this remarkable popular movement lie in the very nature of the Soviet system. The moral and political unity of Soviet society has made the USSR a friendly family where every citizen, irrespective of nationality, sex or age, feels as an equal among equals and where care of the people and solicitude for their welfare are law.

The Soviet people consider it their duty to render assistance to their brothers and sisters who have suffered under the hated Nazi yoke, to enable them to speedily restore the basis of their economic life.

The tireless labor of the people and the generous help given by the State have brought results. The program of restoration of housing and machine and tractor stations as provided for in the Government decision of August 21 has in the main been fulfilled. Many collective farms have been completely restored and are already rendering aid to the front. In 1943 one district of the Rostov Region delivered 20,000 tons of grain and large quantities of meat, eggs and wool to the State. Even districts liberated quite recently are returning to activity. The Donets Basin is already supplying tens of thousands of tons of coal to the country daily; two blast furnaces are in operation in Yenakievo, and factories, mines and power stations are working in Stalingrad, Kharkov, Rostov and Voronezh.

But all that has been accomplished so far is only a beginning. The main job is still ahead. The Soviet people are faced with the task of fully liquidating the effects of German rule in the districts liberated from fascist occupation.

One Day of Construction in the Ukraine

The newspaper *Radyanska Ukraina* has published a survey of one day's reconstruction in the Ukraine. On that day in Kiev the machine shop was put into operation at the Leninskaya Kuznitsa plant, the power station of the plant began working and water was once again supplied to this district of the city.

In the Donbas, after 42 days' work, restoration was completed of the first coking battery at a coking and chemical works. The occasion was marked by a general meeting of the staff, attended by delegates from the Fourth Ukrainian Front who had liberated the Donbas.

In Stalino, miners of the Stalino and Voroshilovgrad Regions signed an agreement for socialist emu-

lation. The former undertook to fulfill their output plan for the fourth quarter of the year before schedule, to exceed this plan by 45,000 tons of coal and to exceed the January-March plan of 1944 by 55,000 tons.

In Dneprodzerzhinsk an open-hearth furnace resumed work after two years' idleness. The Poltava knitwear workers put the finishing touches to a new knitwear factory. They themselves had made the roof and doors and put in windows.

Trans-Volga Waters

The Geological Faculty of Leningrad University has sent a group of scientists to Saratov to study the underground waters of the Trans-Volga regions.



When the Red Army entered Yelnya, in the Smolensk Region, after the city had been for two years in the hands of the German invaders, they found only ruins. What the Nazis could not destroy they tried to carry away. Here a Soviet shell has halted one of their plunder carts



Along the roads running west from Yelnya moved long columns of Germans, hurriedly retreating toward Smolensk. Soviet bombers, attack planes and fighters pursued them, inflicting tremendous damage. One bomb overtook this half-track bus, forcing its occupants to flee on foot



The Germans closed down many essential enterprises and shops in Yelnya as "unnecessary." Among those classed as "unnecessary" was this drugstore, which was taken over by the Nazi commandant for an office

NEW STEP TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF USSR

The following editorial appeared in Number 3 of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

On February 1, 1944 the Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted decisions to create army formations in the constituent Republics and to invest the constituent Republics with powers in the field of foreign relations. In this connection the People's Commissariat of Defense and the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs are converted from All-Union into Union-Republican Commissariats. By a decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR—the highest organ of State authority—corresponding amendments have been introduced into the Constitution of the USSR.

As V. M. Molotov said in his speech at the Tenth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, these decisions represent a new and important step toward the practical solution of the national question in the multi-national Soviet State. The new and responsible functions which have been entrusted to the constituent Republics, and now the broad rights and powers with which they have been invested in the domain of defense and foreign relations, signify another triumph for the Lenin and Stalin national policy pursued by the Soviet State.

The fact that these far-reaching constitutional reforms have been undertaken at the height of the stern and trying struggle which has fallen to the lot of our country is particularly striking testimony to the increased strength and maturity of the constituent Republics, as well as the unshakable might of our Union as a whole.

The decision to invest the constituent Republics with powers to enter into direct relations with foreign states and to conclude agreements with them will undoubtedly help to extend the international ties of our country. It will create the premises which will make it possible for the foreign relations of the Soviet Union as they develop to embrace as fully as possible not only the needs of the Union in general, but also the diversified and growing requirements of the constituent Republics in foreign affairs.

The Soviet commonwealth of nations comprises 16 constituent Republics. In population and territory, in the level of industry and production, in cultural development, richness of historical past and in national traditions, the Soviet Republics will easily stand comparison with many countries of Europe, and not only of Europe. It need only be mentioned that the Russian Federation, which covers an immense area stretching from the Baltic to the Pacific, has a

larger population than any country in Europe. We also know that in point of population the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic numbers only a little less than France and that the Byelorussian SSR surpasses Belgium, Holland, Portugal and Sweden. The Azerbaijanian SSR is one of the world's largest oil centers, while the Central Asian Republics are major producers of cotton and other valuable raw materials. Everyone is familiar with the unfading cultural treasures which have been created by the Transcaucasian Republics. The Baltic countries are destined to play a prominent part in the maritime trade of our great country.

It is only natural, therefore, that it has become of vital importance to the Republics to gain access to the foreign arena in accordance with their specific economic and cultural requirements.

The decisions of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR create a broader basis for cooperation between the Soviet Union and other states. In the spring of 1939, prior to the outbreak of the Second World War instigated by Hitlerite imperialism, when it was still possible by a real union of the forces of the peace-loving nations to avert bloodthirsty aggression on the part of Hitler's Germany, Stalin said: "We stand for peace and the strengthening of business relations with all countries. That is our position and we will adhere to this position as long as these countries maintain like relations with the Soviet Union and as long as they make no attempt to trespass on the interests of our country."

As we know, in the past there were countries which reckoned little with the interests and even with the very existence of the Soviet Union. But nowadays it is clear to all that the Soviet Union is a cardinal factor in international policy, one which no country can ignore except to the detriment of its own interest.

During this war the role and prestige of the Soviet Union has risen immeasurably in the eyes of the freedom-loving nations, and its relations with the democratic states have been strengthened. We need only mention the establishment—for the first time in the history of the Soviet Government—of not only friendly but even allied relations with Great Britain, as well as good relations with the United States.

The creation and consolidation of the anti-Hitler coalition headed by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States has made it abundantly clear

it friendly cooperation between the Soviet Union and other democratic powers was both possible and essential. Despite the fears of many "skeptics," the differences in ideology and social systems do not create a barrier to the development of this close cooperation, which is vital to the interests of all freedom-loving nations both in the war and in the peace.

The course of the war has shown that without the Soviet Union the defeat of Hitler Germany is inconceivable. It is equally clear that without the active participation of the Soviet Union, a stable and enduring peace among the nations is equally inconceivable. The world family of democratic countries which only grow stronger after the common enemy is vanquished, the Soviet Union must occupy a place commensurate with its contribution to the freeing of the world from the fascist scourge and to the part it is playing in the creative political, economic and cultural activities of progressive mankind.

As we know, there are still idle gossips abroad who do not want of better employment are puzzling their heads over the question of whether after the war "a turn to isolation" is not to be expected on the part of the Soviet Union. Of course, these soothsayers are not so naive as they would have us believe. Everybody knows that in the decades preceding the war a policy of isolating the Soviet Union was pursued by reactionary leaders. Now the kept politicians in their effort to whitewash their client and to lay the blame on innocent shoulders are talking vaguely and mysteriously of a Soviet "policy of isolation," which has not and never did exist. The absurdity of these assertions is particularly clear in the light of the decisions of the highest organ of State authority in the USSR.

Who will deny that this decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR is a demonstration of the desire of the Soviet State to develop and strengthen cooperation with other states and to widen its scope?

Vocational Training in Kharkov

A thousand boys and girls are being trained as skilled mechanics, electricians, blacksmiths and farmers in the vocational training centers of No. 10 Training Institute in Kharkov. Many instructors and skilled workers have come from the Urals and Siberia to the Ukraine to help with the project.

Much of the equipment at No. 10 Training Institute has been made by the pupils and teachers themselves. In April the first group of young builders, masons and mechanics will have been trained.

It was only natural, at the first news of the reorganization of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, that the Hitlerite adventurers whose piratical diplomacy is as obviously bankrupt as the vaunted German strategy, should raise their usual cry that this was a "Bolshevist trick," a "Soviet maneuver," and the like. It is not surprising that now that Hitler's plans for world domination have collapsed, the fascist swindlers should take advantage of every conceivable pretext to calumniate the Soviet Union by asserting that it is out to annex dozens of states, to bring the whole of Europe under its influence and to establish nothing more nor less than world dominion. Nothing else is to be expected from the Hitlerite bankrupts.

But it is to be expected that all persons of any intelligence who are not interested in Hitler's attempts to poison the international political atmosphere will reject with contempt and disgust all the various "international relations" and "conjectures" which bear the obvious mark of Berlin origin. This mark is borne, for instance, by conjectures to the effect that the present constitutional reforms in the USSR are designed to "pave the way for the incorporation of other countries into the Soviet Union," or to create an instrument for an "expansionist policy" of the Soviet State, or to serve as a means of "using force within the United Nations," etc.

The Soviet public unanimously welcomes the historic decisions of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, which are a logical step in the development of cooperation between our country and the foreign world.

It is to be presumed that these decisions will meet with full understanding on the part of all the friends of peace and liberty of nations, and will be comprehended by them as a new demonstration of the unswerving determination of the Soviet Union to strengthen business ties with all countries which are capable of showing due respect for the interests of our country.

TASS STATEMENT

On February 13 Soviet newspapers published the following denial by TASS:

The Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* circulates rumors, according to which the signing of a trade agreement between the USSR and Bulgaria is expected in the nearest future.

TASS is authorized to declare that the said rumors are devoid of any foundation.

Herds Graze in "Kazakh Sahara"

By V. Belikov

In the language of Kazakhstan, "kumi" means sands. There are very extensive sands in Kazakhstan, and they have caused much sorrow in their time. These arid lands stretch for hundreds of square miles. But during the first year of the war the people of Kazakhstan remembered that in olden times nomad cattle-breeders used to graze their herds in the desert, and the cattle found food for themselves under the snow.

True, it is one thing to drive out a few flocks of sheep to graze, and quite another to find winter pastures for thousands of cattle. And there had been an exceptionally rapid development of stock-breeding in Kazakhstan since the outbreak of war. The fodder problem had become extremely urgent.

It was decided that herds should graze in the Muyun Kumi desert, which had earned itself an evil reputation as the "Kazakh Sahara." A scientific expedition went out as an advance guard, accompanied by gray-bearded cattle-breeders, grandsons of the nomads who had grazed their herds in the sands.

Soon good news came from the desert: "Meadows are flowering among the dunes of the Muyun Kumi. The water in the ancient wells is sweet and pure."

The results of the expedition proved so convincing and attractive that the local authorities at once sent two hundred thousand head of cattle into the desert. The experiment was successful. Animals wintering in the Muyun Kumi put on so much weight by the time they returned to the farm in the spring that the country and the front received an additional 60 truck-loads of meat, without any expenditure of fodder, thus saving the collective farms 67,000 tons of hay.

Sands Become Pastures

That was in the first year of the war. In the second winter, half a million animals were driven out into the desert, where they grazed for four months. In the songs of the Kazakh bards, the desert of evil sands had come to be called the "Big Winter Pasture."

The third winter of the war finds 700,000 head of cattle, sheep, goats, horses and camels grazing there. Of course the organization of winter grazing today is quite unlike olden times. Then the nomad went into the desert at his own risk. His tent and a few powerful sheepdogs were all the protection he had. He wandered about from place to place. The sands could tell many a tragedy of men frozen to death, and scattered flocks that perished.

Nowadays winter grazing in the desert is organized like any big Soviet State enterprise. Settlements have sprung up, and at a convenient distance from the warm felt dwelling tents, 12,000 sheds and other premises have been built for the herds. When the storms are particularly fierce, the herds find shelter in these bases and sheepfolds.

Network of Wells

Huge stocks of fodder, which the farmers call "insurance funds," are set aside against the time when frost or blizzards make grazing impossible. There is no lack of water—182 new wells have been sunk in the wintering stations. A large staff of veterinary surgeons and zoological technicians are in attendance at 18 stations equipped with all necessary instruments and a large stock of medicines.

The big winter pastures of the one-time desert live a life of their own. Almost every day caravans of camels, the tried and trusty desert transport, arrive with provisions, consumers' goods, medicines, mail and newspapers. Here the collective farm stock-breeders live with their families and feel no lack of anything. Some of the young people have developed into experienced cattle-breeders, capable of enduring all the difficulties and hardships of the desert life.

The name of the herdsman Asylbekov of the Kzyloktyabr collective farm, Kokterek district, is famous from the banks of the Belkhash to the Tian-Shan foothills. During the first months of the present winter he chose such splendid pasturage that he increased the weight of his flock of a thousand by 100 tons. Through their inspired work, the Kazakh stock-breeders have forced the desert to produce meat, wool, butter and leather.

This year the Kazakh Republic will increase the herds of cattle driven out to graze to three million head.

Lost Mayakovsky Speech Discovered

The manuscript of a speech by the poet Mayakovsky, delivered on March 12, 1917, has been discovered in the Leningrad archives. The speech was made at the Mikhailovsky Theater to an audience of authors, artists, musicians and actors.

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Red Army Wages a War of Liberation

By Colonel G. Barandov

The Red Army is waging a titanic struggle against the military machine of Hitlerite Germany. The Soviet people did not want war. They have never seized the territory or property of other nations. They have always respected the rights of other peoples and have never in any way interfered in the internal affairs of other states.

National and racial hatred and enmity toward the peoples of other countries are looked upon by the

Soviet people as sentiments that disgrace and lower civic and human dignity. And expressing the will of the people, the Soviet Government did all it could to preserve peace, to curb the aggressors and to prevent the Soviet land from being drawn into the shambles of war.

Soviet foreign policy has invariably been a consistent struggle for peace, for friendly and neighborly relations with other states, for the strict ob-



A group of commanders of the Sixth Cavalry Guards Corps discuss a recent operation

servance and honest fulfillment of international agreements. The Red Army has stood as the sentinel of the peaceful policy of its people and its Government.

Without the slightest grounds, the bloodthirsty German-fascist imperialists basely and perfidiously violated the non-aggression pact, and on June 22, 1941, threw against the Soviet Union the whole might of their military machine. With base and dastardly aims they started the war against the Soviet Union. They sent their brigand armies to the east to seize Soviet territory, to destroy the national culture and national statehood of the Soviet peoples, to Germanize the Soviet people and turn them into slaves of the German princes and barons.

Possessing in the first period of the war great advantages over the Red Army, the German-fascist troops captured a considerable part of Soviet territory. Millions of Soviet people in the districts occupied by the Germans found themselves in bondage and were confronted with horrors before which the darkest and most terrible pictures of the days of slavery and serfdom pale.

At the call of the Government the Red Army, together with the whole Soviet people, rose in mortal combat against the Germans, Rumanians, Hungarians and Finns who invaded the USSR.

Lofty and noble are the aims of the Red Army: It is waging war for the national and state independence of the Soviet land, for the liberation of Soviet territory seized by the enemy, to save the lives of millions of Soviet citizens in the occupied districts and to deliver them from the inhuman sufferings and disgrace of German-fascist slavery.

This is a great and truly just war of liberation on the part of the freedom-loving and peace-loving Soviet people, who ardently and boundlessly love their country. The Red Army has no aims of territorial expansion in this war; it never had such aims. It is free of feelings of national and racial hatred unworthy of human dignity.

If now every Red Army man hates with all his soul the German and other invaders of his country, he hates them not because they are Germans, Finns, Rumanians or Hungarians, but because they are invaders, robbers and bandits, who commit unspeakably savage outrages on the Soviet people falling into their blood-stained hands. Death to the German invaders! Such is the fighting watchword of the Red Army, which is defending the honor, freedom and independence of its country.

Hitlerite Germany is the fierce enemy of all democratic countries and all freedom-loving peoples the

world over. Victory over the Red Army was planned by the Hitlerite clique as the first stage on the road to Germany's world domination. This emphasizes still more clearly that the Soviet Union is waging a war of liberation. In crushing and exterminating Hitler's regiments and divisions, the Red Army helps, not in words but in deeds, the enslaved peoples of Europe to throw off the shameful chains of the fascist "new order," so that they may afterward freely organize their states on their lands liberated from invaders.

The Red Army is waging a war for the liberation of all mankind from the menace of fascist medievalism and inquisition which hangs over their heads. The nobility of the aims and tasks of the Red Army, which brings to it the love and support of the peoples, is the source of its lofty moral spirit and its boundless fighting heroism. This is the foundation of the international prestige of the Red Army, the basis of the trust and confidence in it on the part of all who are true enemies of fascist reaction, on the part of all genuine friends of the liberty and independence of the peoples, of all champions of economic, political and cultural progress.

On February 23 the Red Army will celebrate its 26th anniversary. To this memorable day in its history it comes with the glory of its splendid victories, with the lustre of the success of its arms, with the fame of its unsurpassed mastery. Behind it are the brilliant routes of the German armies before Moscow in 1941 and at Stalingrad in 1942; it has to its credit the unfading glories of the 1943 victories at Kursk, in the Donbas, Tavria and on the Dnieper.

Its fighting record of the month and a half of the current year is embellished by marvelous successes in the Ukraine, on the right bank of the Dnieper, and near Leningrad. The Red Army is striking the enemy without giving him any respite. More and more districts of the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the RSFSR are being liberated from the brutal invaders. The Red Army is actively preparing for the liberation of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia and the Karelo-Finnish Republic.

Having borne the gigantic burden of the war for the past two and one-half years, having grown and been tempered in the process of war, with the experience gained in the battles fought, and surrounded by the love and unbounded support of its people, the Red Army meets its 26th anniversary filled with strength and confidence in the speedy and complete victory of the United Nations over the fierce enemy of humanity—bloodthirsty Hitlerism.

The Red Army is ready to inscribe new and brilliant pages in its fighting history. It will write them to the glory of its country and for the happiness of all freedom-loving humanity.

On the Northwestern Front—
a Red Army sapper searches
for mines under the snow



Automatic riflemen on the
Central Front receive final in-
structions before beginning an
operation



Heavy machine gunners on
the Northwestern Front



UNITY OF FRONT AND REAR

By N. Rytikov

What is the basis of the Red Army's might? How did it happen that in one year, overcoming the colossal resistance of the enemy, the Red Army covered the path from Stalingrad to Nikopol, Rovno and Lutsk?

One of the conditions insuring the successes of Soviet troops was the invincible unity of the Soviet front and rear. During the entire course of the great Patriotic War of the Soviet people against the German-fascist invaders, the heroic struggle of the Red Army rested on the support of the no-less heroic and self-sacrificing labor of the workers in the Soviet rear.

"Everything for the front! Everything for vic-



Armament workers of Leningrad carried on day and night throughout the blockade

tory!" This thought, this aspiration, pervades all the activities of Soviet workers. Even in the hard autumn months of 1941, when the enemy captured the Ukraine and the Donbas, blockaded Leningrad and stood at the gates of Moscow—even in those days there was no panic, no confusion, in the rear. In the summer and autumn of 1941 thousands of trains transported industrial equipment to the East from the western and southern regions. In the severe cold of the winter of 1941-42 this equipment was installed in hastily built plants in the Urals, Siberia and the Volga area, and production of war materials commenced immediately.

One of the most important features of the Soviet system, the planning of socialist economy, helped the workers in the rear to quickly overcome all difficulties arising from the new conditions and to organize the supply of munitions, equipment and food to the front in ever-increasing quantities. When the evacuation of enterprises was completed and mass production started, an All-Union socialist competition for intensifying aid to the front was launched on the initiative of the aircraft builders and metallurgists. This competition proved to be a powerful lever for raising labor productivity and increasing output.

A striking index of the achievements of socialist competition was the fulfillment of the 1943 plan for industrial production. Many enterprises fulfilled their yearly plan ahead of time and turned out considerable material above their quotas. Labor productivity rose to a higher level than planned and was particularly high in the munitions and aviation industries. In this competition, labor heroism reached new heights. Tens of thousands of "front-line brigades" whose members systematically exceeded production quotas, arose in the factories. For their selfless labor thousands of heroes of the Soviet rear were rewarded by the Government with decorations.

"The self-sacrificing efforts of our people will go down in history along with the heroic struggle our Red Army is waging, as an unprecedented feat of heroism performed by people in defending their country," said Stalin in November, 1943. While working strenuously and selflessly, each at his own post, there are other ways for patriots to strengthen the defensive capacity of their country. War swallows up enormous means. Each day the war costs many millions of rubles. And the population of the Soviet Union takes an active part in financing the war. The two War Loans have been considerably

(Continued on page twelve)

A LATVIAN GUERRILLA'S STORY

By P. Tulitan

My father was born in Latvia and fought in the ranks of the Latvian infantry against the Germans during the First World War. For 15 months he endured German captivity, was beaten and tormented, and finally escaped. His stories about the Germans, the traditional oppressors of the Latvian people, remained indelibly impressed upon my memory.

When the Germans fell upon the Soviet Union, my father was dead and our family lived in Kholm, in the Zhirkovsk District, Smolensk Region, near the Vadinsk Forest. I shall never forget the day the Nazis reached our village, the murder and torture of the civilian population.

With a group of young people of my own age I began to gather weapons and hide them in the forest. Luck was with us when we discovered a cache of 20 tommy guns, three mounted machine guns with 100 belts, 200 rifles and much ammunition and many mines. We made good use of this material. I joined the "Against the Enemy" guerrilla detachment. The Germans learned of this, arrested my mother and tortured her to death in a concentration camp. My four little brothers and sisters were sheltered by neighbors.

I worked as a scout with the guerrillas for two months and then joined an assault unit. We attacked German garrisons, fell upon their transports and supply bases, derailed their trains, dynamited bridges and damaged railway lines. During a scrap at Pogoreltsi village our detachment annihilated 60 SS men. I was wounded in the leg. Gradually I learned how to make mines. On the Kotelkovo highway my mines smashed a German tank and truck filled with soldiers. With my own hands I have accounted for five Nazis.

Out on a reconnaissance assignment at Kholm I saw a woman, suspected of traffic with the guerrillas, publicly whipped and then hanged. I saw wells jammed to the top with the bodies of old men and children shot by the Nazis—this in Knizhenov village.

Our guerrilla detachment was joined by other Latvians who had managed to escape from Nazi dungeons. They told us how the Germans were exterminating the civilian population in Latvia. Raiding our villages in armed gangs, the Germans arrest men and women and herd them together in camps. They then divide the families; the aged are shot at once—as excess baggage; children are sent to so-called "children's camps" where they die of hunger and back-breaking toil. Able-bodied adults are shipped to Germany. Eye-witness Kaleis V. saw 18 trainloads of victims leave for Germany from the Daugavpils railway station alone.

I am now a private in the Latvian forces and am training hard to become a good all-round soldier. In my unit every man is striving to learn an extra, and in some cases, two extra specialties. For instance, I have made a study of machine guns and can handle any of the tasks of a machine-gun crew. I have also become an anti-aircraft gunner, and now I am learning the job of liaison man. I am eager to come to grips with the Nazis. There is nothing I want more than to avenge bleeding Latvia, to avenge the death of my martyred mother.



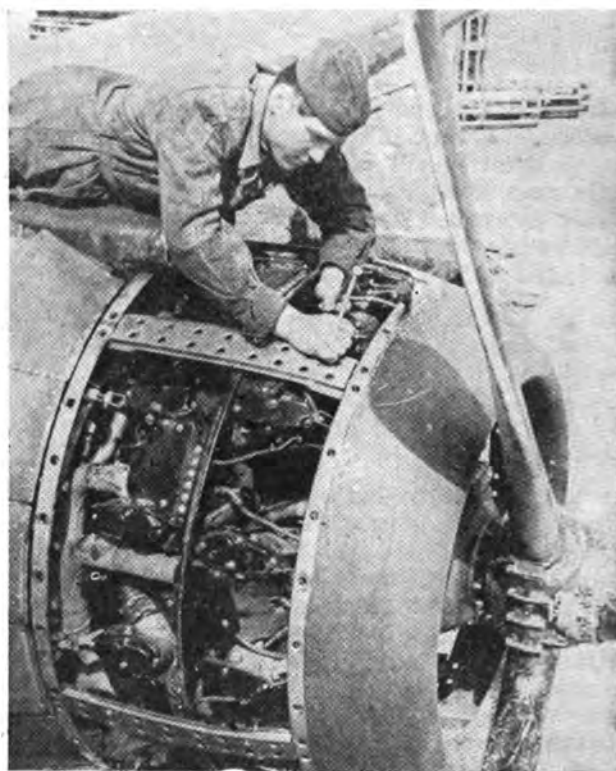
Kazakh Signalman Zhakiya Bekmashanov wears the Order of the Patriotic War, Second Degree, for heroism in correcting fire on enemy trenches and blockhouses

Radiophoto

American-Built Planes—Symbol of Soviet-American Friendship



A mechanic tightens the hood



Changing spark-plugs



Electricians install a new generator



Testing cylinder compression

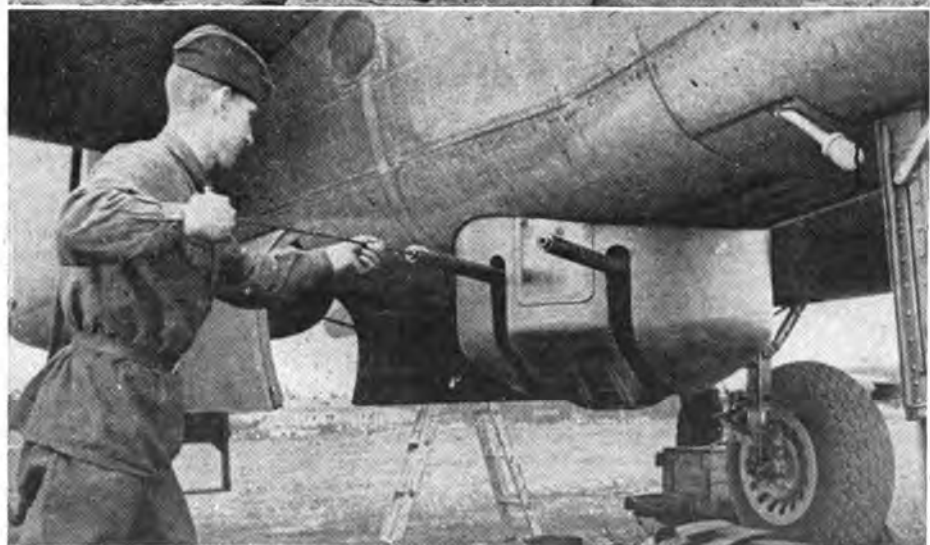
The planes shown on this page and the preceding page are of American manufacture. They are being flown on the Soviet-German front by men of the Guards Unit, who give them constant and expert care



loading the machine-gun belt



men of the ground crew check the gyro-pilot



cleaning machine guns mounted in the lower turret

ESTONIAN RED ARMY UNITS

By I. Kebin

The formation of Estonian national units in the Red Army was begun in February, 1942, on the initiative of the Estonian people supported by the Soviet Government. Estonians evacuated from the temporarily occupied districts of the Estonian SSR, as well as those living in other Republics of the Union, readily joined the ranks of their national units. Within a very short time tens of thousands had joined the ranks of the Estonian Red Army units.

These national units first took part in the fighting during the Red Army offensive in the winter of 1942-43. During those battles they liberated 20 populated localities, annihilating and taking prisoner over 3,500 Hitlerites, including 60 officers, and capturing rich booty. Estonian units were with the main forces which routed the Germans near Velikie Luki and exterminated the German garrison there. Estonian soldiers took prisoner the chief of the garrison, Baron von Zass, descendant of a Baltic baron whose offspring ruled on Ezel Islands, exploiting many generations of Estonians.

In the battles for Velikie Luki Junior Lieutenant Albert Karista particularly distinguished himself. Heading a group of four he repulsed the attack of 40 German tommy gunners advancing under cover of mortar fire. The tommy gunners strove to break through the ring of Soviet troops blocking the garrison at Velikie Luki. Karista destroyed the attacking Germans with their own grenades, which he hurled back before they exploded. After this the five charged the surviving enemy soldiers with grenades and bayonets, but a grenade exploded in Karista's hand, smashing it and damaging his rifle. But even then he continued to fight and the assault was beaten off.

The hatred of the Estonians for the German invaders trebles their fighting strength and gives birth to heroes. Albert Karista was awarded the Order of Lenin by the Soviet Government and the Medal for Distinguished Service by the President of the United States.

The fighting qualities of the Estonian soldiers have been highly praised. Over a thousand men and officers have been awarded orders and medals of the Soviet Union. There is one unit composed entirely of men who have been decorated, a clear proof of the mass heroism of the Estonian fighters.

In recent battles the Estonian artillerymen distinguished themselves on numerous occasions, particularly on reconnaissance. During a brief period they spotted 34 gun and 28 mortar batteries, 26 single guns and 57 mortars, 43 observation posts, 98 block-

houses, 72 dugouts, etc. This efficient reconnaissance helped in the planning and winning of the engagement. Estonian gunners also distinguished themselves in the fight for and capture of the town of Novosokolniki. In an Order of the Day the Supreme Commander-in-Chief Marshal Stalin expressed his gratitude.

For the past two years the Estonian national units in the Red Army have been waging war against the enemy, and in this time have grown into a well-trained, battle-steeled military force. They have able generals and skilled officers. The Estonian people have given the Red Army four generals and five Heroes of the Soviet Union.

The Estonians are justly proud of Hero of the Soviet Union Guardsman Joseph Laar. On August 7, 1943, when battles raged for Height 167.4 and the Lenin hamlet in the Kuban, Joseph Laar was first to rush the German trench. Further headway to the company was barred by machine-gun fire. Despite a serious wound Laar wriggled up to the blockhouse hindering the advance and covered the embrasure with his body. The company went into the attack and rushed the second line of trenches, destroying 60 German officers and men, five heavy and seven light machine guns, four mortars and one anti-tank gun. Laar's last words were: "Show the Germans no mercy!" He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Young Estonian soldiers are brought up on the heroic exploit of Joseph Laar; fathers sending their sons to the Army say, "Be like Joseph Laar!"

"When I left home," writes Lembit Laar, "my father told me I must be as good a soldier as my uncle, Hero of the Soviet Union Joseph Laar. I want to devote all my strength, all by ability and if need be my life, to free my homeland from fascist slavery. I will faithfully fulfil all orders of my commanders and become an expert with my weapons."

The sons of the Estonian people are fighting beside the loyal sons of the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Georgian peoples, following their valorous traditions in the struggle of the Estonian people against their old enemy, the German invaders. Future generations will remember them with gratitude.

Every day new heroes and military leaders are born; they will form the backbone of the armed forces of the Estonian Republic. In these desperate battles the Estonian Red Army units have become hardened, and the friendship existing between the Estonian people and all other peoples of the Soviet Union has become stronger than ever.

Soviet Actor at the Front

By Alexander Ostuzhev

Alexander Ostuzhev, People's Artist of the USSR and Stalin Prize Winner, who was born in 1874, is one of the oldest Russian actors. He joined the Moscow Maly Theater in 1893 and has been playing on its stage for more than 50 years. Ostuzhev has played scores of parts, but his most outstanding success has been in the role of Othello.

We Soviet actors look upon our appearances before the Red Army and our meetings with the fighters in the front lines as the most honorable and responsible form of our art, as a source of creative inspiration and esthetic satisfaction.

The difficulties of appearing at the front do not daunt either old or young. How can we compare any hardships we may suffer with those of the soldiers, who do not spare their lives to safeguard the honor and independence of our motherland? We feel that we must be there, also, where the fate and happiness of mankind is being decided; we must bring ardent words to the soldiers, help to imbue them with greater enthusiasm, inspire more fervent love of country and fan their hatred against the accursed Hitlerites.

Since the beginning of the great Patriotic War the Maly Theater—the oldest playhouse in Moscow—has given 2,700 performances for the Red Army at the front and in the rear. I have visited the front four times with groups from the Maly. My first visit was in January, 1942. We traveled from a distant and glorious city in the Urals where mighty tanks are being produced. The Germans are now feeling the formidable power of these monsters on their "impregnable" defense lines, which the Red Army is smashing.

I played at that time for the valorous fliers of the Central Front commanded by General Mikhail Gromov, well-known to the Americans for his famous transatlantic flight. Those were difficult days; but even then the devastating blows of the Red Army, commanded by the genius of Marshal Stalin, compelled the German war machine to slow down for the first time.

My second trip to the front was in the spring of the same year, 1942. This time I appeared before the tankmen, reading Shakespeare's passionate speech from *Othello*, my favorite role. The last part of this speech, calling upon the brave soldiers to defend honor and justice and to battle the fierce foe, was drowned in a storm of applause.

I talked with 22-year-old Ivan Brozov, a former Moscow taxi driver, now a senior driver of a KV tank.

The young fighter asked me about the engineers and workers in the Urals, builders of the tank in his charge.

"Mark my words," concluded the young tankman, "within a year we'll drive the Hitlerite scum from our sacred land."

I recalled the firm conviction of these words exactly a year later when our brilliant 1943 summer offensive was in progress, and I was again close to our advanced positions. The bus in which we were traveling had to overtake the Red Army units rapidly forging westward.

Only recently, during the present heroic offensive, I made my fourth visit to the front. In the officers' club we listened to the radio broadcasts of the victorious salvos from Moscow, exultantly heralding the liberation of various Soviet cities, and read with pleasure in the front newspapers the historic decisions of the Teheran Conference. With officers and soldiers we earnestly discussed the prospects of the approaching invasion of Hitler-subjugated Europe by the Anglo-American Allied Forces.

Our performances at the front were received with intense enthusiasm. In the morning our bus moved farther west in the wake of the advancing units, so that we could give our scheduled concerts.

Our entire country will mark the 26th Anniversary of the Red Army at a time of triumphant offensives. And I'm again hoping to take another trip to the front during these marvelous days, so as to be with our fighters—our defenders and the defenders of the interests of all progressive humanity. And this time the trip from Moscow to the Red Army in action will be an even longer one than the last.

A Box of Earth

The standard bearer of the Czechoslovak Brigade in the USSR preserves, together with the standard and with the same great honor, a small box of earth from the Ukrainian town of Bakhmach. In 1918, during the invasion of the Ukraine by the Germans, Czechoslovak soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder with the Russians at Bakhmach. They took home with them a box of Bakhmach earth, which was placed in Prague Museum. After the occupation of Czechoslovakia the Germans destroyed everything that could remind the people of the days of their independence—documents, pictures, books and Bakhmach earth. But the First Independent Czechoslovak Brigade has taken new earth from Bakhmach, and has sworn to carry it in battle to Prague.

FIVE MILLION SKIERS

On February 13 over a half million Soviet citizens started on the third militarized youth trade union cross-country ski race in the mountains of the Urals, in the forests of Siberia, in the suburbs of Leningrad, Kiev, Stalingrad, Gorky and other towns of the USSR. This sports contest, in which 5,000,000 people will



Soviet skiers on a mass cross-country race

take part, is the largest ever held in Europe. Soviet sportsmen invariably dedicate this mass contest to Red Army Day.

In Moscow—the country's sports center—30,000 skiers of various ages and professions passed the en-

durance test in some 100 winter bases in the parks and suburbs. The signal for the start of the three, five and 10-kilometer races was given by the Military Commissar of Moscow, Major General Chernykh, at exactly 11 A. M. The radio transmitted this signal throughout the country, and in hundreds of towns and villages of the USSR sports referees simultaneously cut the ribbons of starting lines. At the sign of the chief referee, Senior Lieutenant Nikolai Pankov, Moscow workers, students, actors and school children set out and soon disappeared beyond the snow-laden trees.

The skiing course winds through thick bushes and up and down hill. In less than half an hour a team of girls from the Krasnaya Shveya needle trades factory finished the five-kilometer race. This is the best production team in Moscow. Its captain, 22-year-old Tanya Karanina, was recently decorated with the Order of Lenin for heroic work for the front.

Simultaneously USSR champions and 700 masters of sport competed for first place in a cross-country race near Moscow. The young Dynamo skier Nikolai Oralov made the best time: one hour, 36 minutes in a 20-kilometer race over difficult terrain.

Soviet youth reported to the Red Army the readiness of hundreds and thousands of skiers for action at the front in the struggle against the German invaders. The majority of the contestants went through a preliminary 30-hour program of training for army skiers, learning to shoot well, to fling grenades and to crawl Indian-fashion. The cross-country races will last until March 1.

CIRCUS IN STALINGRAD

Russian people love the circus. The Red Army has circus troops who travel constantly close to the forward positions and perform in army song and dance ensembles.

So when the Circus Shapito showed up in Stalingrad, everyone was delighted. When the director of the State Circus asked the city administration to allocate a suitable site for the future permanent Circus Shapito, he was told to make his own choice.

The site he has selected is close to what was the command post, not far from the department store and basement from which Field Marshal von Paulus and his whole staff were taken prisoner.

A sculptured stone lion, wounded by bullets and shell fragments, still stands guard at the entrance to the Gorky Theater. Further on is a shell-pocked brick

wall bearing the inscription: "In the stern battles for Stalingrad the enemy was halted here by Major General Rodimtsev's Guards." Another reads: "Major General Rodimtsev's men fought here to the death."

Close by is a tent with a sign over the entrance: "Stalingrad State Circus." It was no easy matter to set up this modest circus. The workers were very busy rebuilding their city, and so the performers themselves had to pitch their tent, build temporary dwellings and clear away unexploded shells. Once a spring storm and torrential rain tore down the rickety structure. All the performers, their wives and children, worked like giants and got the place ready for the evening performance.

Every evening you can see hundreds of Stalingrad people winding their way among the ruins to attend the circus.



Young students of the Suvorov Military Academy in Kalinin. (Left to right) Kim Boglai, Nikolai Mischenko, Victor Gastello (son of the hero who crashed his burning plane on a German tank column in the early days of the war), and Victor Krylov. Two of the boys wear medals for fearless action in defense of their country

Radiophoto

Chapayev's Grandsons at Suvorov School

The pupils of the Kalinin Suvorov Military School are the sons of Red Army fighters or guerrillas, orphans whose parents have been killed by the Germans. They come from the Moscow, Yaroslavl, Kalinin, Ivanovo and Smolensk Regions.

They are already quite familiar with the classrooms and laboratories, dormitories, dining rooms and canteens. All of them have undergone a medical examination and been given new, well-fitting uniforms: black trousers, military shirts with red shoulder straps, leather shoes, black overcoats and warm fur hats. They get up at 6:30 A. M. and follow a strict regime throughout the day until bedtime at 10 P. M.

Among them are the grandsons of the famous Civil War hero, Vasili Chapayev. The boys' father, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Chapayev, is now at the front. Another pupil is 12-year-old Vitali Morozov, who has already seen action at the front, and wears the For Valor Medal.

Extension of Child Health Services

Soviet health protection facilities for children of pre-school and school age are to be extended and improved. The People's Commissariat of Health Protection for the Russian SFSR has announced that such facilities are to be provided in all towns which do not already possess them for children of four to 14 years of age.

All towns with over 15,000 children of this age group which do not already possess special health institutes for children must set up children's polyclinics or health consultation centers. Towns with less than 15,000 children without such facilities must set up children's sections attached to general clinics.

There is to be medical inspection twice a year (in spring and autumn) for all school children. Every children's home is to have a full-time doctor. Medical staffs are to exercise regular supervision at all dining rooms for children. The training of additional children's medical staffs has been arranged, and advanced and refresher courses in children's illnesses are being organized for doctors and nurses.

Germans Change Tactics on Baltic Front

For some time the troops of the Baltic Front have had to reckon with a change in German tactics. The Nazis have forsaken the system of defense in strong-points for one of defending themselves on a solid line of trenches. This change of tactics was forced upon them because Red Army troops learned so well how to overcome the system of strongpoint defenses by bypassing, masking and subsequently annihilating them.

The order of the commander to the German corps to this effect reads: "I hereby order in all sectors of defense to switch to the system of solid defense. The term 'strongpoint' is not to be used any more. There still exist sectors, groups of blindages and groups of heavy arms adapted for all-round defense. The enemy would concentrate his massed artillery fire on isolated, fortified inhabited localities; therefore troops and heavy arms should be immediately withdrawn from inhabited localities and regrouped in depth and along the front to stretch out in one solid line."

This and similar orders were executed. The change of tactics was met with corresponding measures on our side. The overcoming of solid trench defenses required high training and skill on the part of our troops which, however, have developed their own

methods of dealing with the enemy's new system of defense. One element which contributed substantially to the success of our troops was the use of guns which follow directly behind the attacking infantry and destroy enemy firing pits as they come back to life after the artillery preparation which precedes our attack.

Our troops have been taught not to linger in captured trenches, but to tear ahead at once. This is necessary because the enemy frequently has his own trenches ranged beforehand by his guns, and as soon as they are occupied by our troops he opens furious fire upon them. Methods have been developed for the immediate consolidation of captured positions, the building of barbed wire entanglements from prefabricated elements, the mining of approaches, etc.

Our troops have also developed tactics of fighting in trenches, and have already crushed quite a few defensive lines built after the solid trench system. Thus they have fully overcome a powerful defensive line to which the Germans gave the special name of "panther," and smashed another line called "the bear" on a very wide frontage. As a result, the Germans have at these points been dislodged into the open, snow-covered fields, where they occupy hastily-improvised defenses.

FRONT AND REAR

(Continued from page four)

over-subscribed. Equally successful was the issue of lottery tickets, the proceeds of which will likewise go to strengthen the country's defense.

Not confining themselves to this, the Soviet rear set up special Defense Funds from their savings. In the winter of 1942-43, on the initiative of the collective farmers of the Tambov Region—who decided to build a tank column at their own expense—and of Ferapont Golovaty, a Saratov collective farmer who contributed 100,000 rubles for building an airplane, a movement for collecting funds for the building of tanks and aircraft for the Red Army spread throughout the country. Within four months Soviet patriots contributed out of their own savings more than 7,000,000,000 rubles, with which thousands of tanks and aircraft have been built. A few days ago the people of the liberated regions of the Ukraine proceeded to establish such a fund. Several scores of

millions of rubles have already been contributed in the first days of this movement.

The unity of the Soviet rear and front, and the daily care for the Soviet fighters are manifested also in such truly nation-wide efforts as the collection of warm clothing for the Red Army, sending holiday presents to the men at the front, care for their families, etc. The organization and realization of this all-round aid to the Red Army brings to light the remarkable unity and solidarity of all the peoples of the multi-national Soviet Union.

A striking illustration of this unity of the Soviet peoples was the recent session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, at which members of the Soviet parliament and representatives of the national Republics forming part of the Soviet Union spoke of the lofty patriotism and the great efforts of all the peoples of the Soviet Republics to increase their aid to the Red Army.

The Soviet system and the friendship of its peoples are the firm foundation of the strength of the Soviet rear and its unity with the front.

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Decrees of the Supreme Soviet on the Decoration of General Eisenhower and Officers and Men of the United States Army and Navy

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the decoration of General Dwight D. Eisenhower with the Order of Suvorov, First Class:

For outstanding successes in the direction of forces and in the carrying out of extensive plans for landing and combat operations of the Anglo-American Armed Forces in North Africa and Italy against the common enemy of the Soviet Union and the U. S. A.—Hitlerite Germany—the Order of Suvorov, First Class, is conferred on General Dwight D. Eisenhower, former Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armed Forces in the Mediterranean theater of military operations.

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the decoration of officers and men of the United States Army and Navy with Orders of the USSR:

For outstanding military activity which contributed to the major success of the Anglo-American troops in North Africa and Italy in the struggle against the common enemy of the USSR and the U. S. A.—Hitlerite Germany—and for courage and valor displayed, orders are awarded to the following officers and men of the United States Army and Navy:

UNITED STATES ARMY: The Order of Suvorov, Second Class, to Lieutenant General Carl Spaatz; the Order of Kutuzov, Second Class, to Lieutenant General Ira Eaker; the Order of Suvorov, Third Class, to Major General Frederick L. Anderson and Lieutenant Colonel Samuel S. Graham; the Order of Kutuzov, Third Class, to Colonel Frederick W. Castle and Lieutenant Colonel William O. Darby; the Order of Alexander Nevsky to Major William L. Leverette, Major William T. Boren and First Lieutenant William W. Kellogg; the Order of the Patriotic War, First Class, to Brigadier General Curtis E. Hemey, Colonel Arman Peterson, and Sergeant John D. Coffee; the Order of the Patriotic War, Second Class, to Colonel Joseph G. Preston, Colonel Russell R. Wilson, First Lieutenant David M. Williams, Technical Sergeant Edward J. Lear, Corporal James D. Slaton and Private First Class Ramon J. Gutierrez; the Order of the Red Star to Colonel Arthur G. Salisbury, Lieutenant Edwin F. Gould, Master Sergeant James L. Kemp, Sergeant William B. Krause, Sergeant James F. Fields, Sergeant Robert D. Sterevich and Sergeant Emery B. Hutchings.

UNITED STATES NAVY: The Order of Kutuzov, First Class, to Vice Admiral Henry K. Hewitt; the Order of Suvorov, Second Class, to Rear Admiral Robert C. Giffen; the Order of Kutuzov, Second Class, to Rear Admiral Harry W. Hill; the Order of Suvorov, Third Class, to Captain Norman C. Gillette; the Order of Kutuzov, Third Class, to Captain Howard E. Orem; the Order of Alexander Nevsky to Captain Don P. Moon; the Order of the Patriotic War, First Class, to Lieutenant Ralph E. Boucher and Lieutenant Jeremiah E. Mahoney; the Order of the Patriotic War, Second Class, to Hugh P. Wright, Gunner's Mate Third Class and Ward L. Gemmer, Boatswain's Mate Second Class; the Order of the Red Star to Lieutenant Rufus T. Brinn, Lieutenant John L. Laird, Second Lieutenant George B. Lennig, George C. Norton, Gunner's Mate Second Class; Lloyd R. Weeks, Gunner's Mate Third Class and Albert F. Wohlers, Coxswain.

(Signed) PRESIDENT OF PRESIDUM OF SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR,
KALININ

SECRETARY OF PRESIDUM OF SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR,
GORKIN

Moscow, Kremlin, February 18, 1944

SAILORS OF THE BLACK SEA

By Colonel M. Pavlov

Severe trials have fallen to the lot of the Black Sea Fleet in the present war. It has been deprived of its main bases and repair docks. With the Red Army the Fleet has been fighting for its bases at Odessa, Nikolayev, Sevastopol and Novorossisk. Great heroism, steadfastness and military skill have been displayed in these heavy battles, where the sailors are invariably the soul of the defense.

At the price of enormous losses the Germans obtained temporary victories on the Black Sea Coast. At Odessa, Sevastopol and Novorossisk the fascists lost over half a million soldiers and officers in killed and wounded. After taking Novorossisk in September, 1942, the Germans were unable to advance an inch beyond that port. The way to the Caucasian Coast was barred by our sailors.



First Lieutenant P. Shevchenko on duty on the bridge

The sailors took their stand at the cement works just outside Novorossisk and remained there for an entire year, repulsing hundreds of furious attacks by the Germans. The naval batteries evacuated from Sevastopol, under the direction of Sevastopol officers, took up firing positions on the south coast, on Novorossisk Bay, and from thence for a year sank all vessels trying to come into occupied Novorossisk. Every vessel on the water and every car or locomotive on land approaching the harbor or city was destroyed by the fire of our batteries stationed on the nearby heights. When the time came to take back the city, the sailors were the first to break into Novorossisk by sea and by land.

The Black Sea Fleet works in conjunction with the

troops of the Red Army, helping them to drive the enemy from Soviet soil. Ships of the Fleet carry landing parties and support them on land by the fire of their long-range guns and bombs from their naval aircraft. They also break the enemy's sea communications by sinking his transports and warships.

During the last six months the sailors of the Black Sea Fleet have sunk several scores of German and Rumanian transports and self-propelled barges used by the Germans to transport men and materiel. Possessing but a limited number of transport ships, the Germans are making wide use of the blockaded Crimean coasting vessels, especially self-propelling barges. At night, hiding near the coast, these low-draft vessels ply to and from the Crimea, hoping to escape the notice of our ships. In this, however, they succeed but seldom. The usual path of German vessels sighted by our ships is straight to the bottom of the sea.

The sailors cherish the glorious traditions of the Black Sea Fleet, which has given to our country such famous naval officers as Admirals Ushakov, Nakhimov, Kornilov and Butakov; Lieutenant Captain Kazarski and Lieutenant Schmidt; and such renowned sailors as Koshka, Matyushenko and Zhelezniakov, and many others.

The defense of Sevastopol revealed to the world the great traditions of the Russian Fleet, which live in the splendid deeds of the Black Sea sailors. The defenders of heroic Sevastopol had to fight under particularly grave conditions. The Germans had a considerable advantage in manpower—and what is still more important, in technique. At the service of the Germans were the splendid airdromes of the Crimean steppes. Sevastopol, on the other hand, had only the small Khersonese airdrome, which was under constant fire from the enemy's long-range guns.

The Germans brought up to Sevastopol hundreds of guns and huge quantities of ammunition. The defenders of Sevastopol had at their disposal batteries whose guns were completely worn out, and in the last months there was no possibility of bringing up munitions. By May of 1942 the Germans had some 500 tanks. The Sevastopol defenders had only 36 medium and light tanks of different makes. But even with such superior forces the Germans were kept at the walls of Sevastopol until July 1, 1942—losing more than 300,000 men in killed and wounded.

It is enough to mention only a few examples of the courage and staunchness of the Black Sea sailors. The anti-aircraft naval battery of Heroes of the So-

at Union Vorobyov and Pyanzin was forced to fight not only the enemy's aircraft but his land forces as well. In three days the men of this battery repulsed over 20 attacks by two battalions of German infantry supported by tanks. Our sailors fought like lions, annihilating up to 500 Germans in the three days. All our heavy machine guns had been put out of action. Only a few sailors remained alive, and these were unable to fight owing to serious wounds. The whole firing position of the battery was already occupied by the Germans, and their tanks broke into the gun enclosure and were firing point-blank at the commander's blockhouse. The defenders of the blockhouse had just enough time to send the following radiogram to their comrades: "Tanks are on battery. Nothing to beat them off with. Almost entire personnel out of action. We ask you to open mass fire on our position and commanding point."

The lofty spirit of Russian sailors was also evinced when the Germans blockaded an underground munitions dump. A group of Red Fleet men in charge of the dump had been surrounded and fighting for several days. They were ordered to blow up the ammunition dump by delayed-action mines, but as they were fighting their way out of the enemy ring they saw that German Tommy gunners had got to the entrance of the dump before the time set for the mines to explode. Alexander Chekarenko, a young Ukrainian sailor, determined to return to the dump and make sure of its destruction. Shouting, "Long live our country—long live Stalin!" he rushed back, drove back the German Tommy gunners with grenades and machine fire, and dashed into the underground entrance. A few seconds later a huge pillar of black smoke, flames and earth rose, blowing a couple of hundred Germans sky-high and burying others under the mound.

In the Novorossisk operation carried out from September 10 to 16, 1943, the Black Sea Fleet played an exceptional role. Torpedo cutters broke into port, pushed the coast gun emplacements, made several landings in the jetty and landed a group of Tommy gunners. Lieutenant Captain Afrikanov, commander of the cutter detachment, displayed splendid fighting mastery in this unprecedented attack under the furious fire of the enemy. Following the torpedo cutters, Lieutenant Captain Glukhov, patrol cutters, self-propelled barges and other vessels with naval infantry rushed into the harbor and effected a landing. The Germans fired furiously on our vessels, but the task was successfully carried out and the port of Novorossisk occupied by the landing party.

The sailors of the Black Sea Fleet are splendid fighting comrades of the valiant Red Army.



(Above) Vice Admiral Basisty, who wears the Order of Lenin and the United States Navy Cross; (below) Petty Officer Ivan Busygin, decorated for skill in landing a group at Novorossisk

HEROIC NURSES OF THE PATRIOTIC WAR



Credit for the high percentage of Soviet wounded returned to the fighting ranks by the Red Army Medical Service is due not only to the doctors, but to the assistant medical personnel—the nurses, surgeons' assistants, voluntary nurses' aides, hygiene instructors and stretcher-bearers, most of whom are usually referred to as nurses.

Many of these women are volunteers in the ranks of the Red Army, where they bravely and fearlessly bear all the hardships of front-line life. Both in defense and offense, the nurses keep pace with their units. On the march, in dugouts and on the battlefield, the soldier always sees the nurse busy at her lofty task, giving first aid to the wounded and removing them from the battlefield with their equipment.

Others of these tireless women devote themselves to work in front-line hospitals, giving unsparingly of their strength to restore the health of the valiant soldiers and officers.

Soviet women at the front set an example of selflessness, courage and devotion in helping to defend the honor and independence of their country. They are always to be found wherever their aid, maternal care and solicitude are needed. Those affectionately tending the wounded in hospitals often give their blood directly at the operating table.

The country highly values the heroic deeds of Soviet women, who are active participants in the great Patriotic War. Many have been distinguished by high Government awards, and their noble work has won them the love and admiration of the entire Soviet people.

* * *

At the left (above)—Field Nurse Oksana Turchik, of the Guards, gives first aid to a wounded Red Army man

(Below)—Field Nurse Raisa Trojan bandages another fighter. Nurse Trojan has been decorated with the Order of the Red Banner for outstanding heroism: in one battle she saved the lives of 15 seriously wounded soldiers by removing them from a burning house



Left (top to bottom)—Wounded men are transferred to a hospital ship; Field Nurse Nina Burakova, of the Marines, has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner for rendering first aid under fire to 70 wounded; Nurse Babrysheva brings flowers to a convalescent Red Army man;

Right (top to bottom)—On the Western Front Field Nurse Elena Kovalchuk makes her way under fire to a wounded soldier—in several days of fighting near Zakharovo village she dressed 200 wounds and carried 80 soldiers with their weapons. In the past 20 months Nurse Kovalchuk, who has been decorated four times for bravery, has saved the lives of more than 700 officers and men; A Cossack field nurse, 19-year-old Maria Tushichkina; In a Cavalry Field Hospital Dresser L. S. Panfilova reads a newspaper to wounded cavalymen

SOVIET GUERRILLA HEROINES

By Tatyana Zuyeva

General Secretary of the Soviet Women's Anti-fascist Committee

Far behind the enemy lines many thousands of Soviet people are waging a fierce struggle against the German invaders. Women and girls fighting side by side with men in the ranks of the guerrillas have amazed the world with their courage.

The heroism of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Lisa Chaikina and Tonya Petrova are known to millions. Among the valiant daughters of the Soviet people who have covered themselves with glory are the Karelian scouts Anna Lisitsina and Marina Melentieva; and the young underground workers of Krasnodon, Ulyana Gromova and Lyuba Shevtsova. Thousands of other intrepid girl patriots are waging a relentless struggle against the enemy.

The life of a guerrilla is fraught with hazards and trials—unequal battles, long and fatiguing treks through forests and swamps, hardships and constant danger. It is not easy for women and girls to share this life of struggle.

But nothing can daunt these brave women. Very young girls come to the guerrilla detachments and insistently demand to be accepted as members. And how can a commander refuse them on the ground of their youth and lack of training when he sees how they burn with hatred for the enemy who has razed their homes and killed members of their families? When they have learned the use of their weapons, these girls unhesitatingly go on the most daring and dangerous operations.

L., a young guerrilla, and her friend were given a most difficult assignment—to establish communication with a detachment operating far behind the enemy lines. They set out in bitter cold weather. On the way the friend died of hunger and cold. L. went on alone. It was fearful to spend nights in the woods by herself. At times her feet would not carry her farther, and her head grew heavy with weariness. But she pushed on, covering hundreds of kilometers and accomplishing her task. Hunger, fear and fatigue were conquered by her strong spirit.

Afterwards, when asked about the journey, she said: *I just kept on. When I was tired I would sit down and cry a little. Then I would remember they were waiting for me, and that perhaps the fate of many people depended on my coming. So I would just get up and go on walking. It was terribly hard, but I just kept on.*

Girls who were formerly milkmaids on collective farms, typists or students, have become resolute and efficient soldiers in the guerrilla detachments. Katya,

a young Byelorussian guerrilla, became a master wrecker. With her friends she has derailed several enemy trains. Shura and Zina, of another detachment, have destroyed seven German trains.

There are no limits to the devotion of Soviet women and girl guerrillas. Rima Shershneva is spoken of with love and admiration in the forest and around the guerrilla campfires; she is remembered in the far-away Byelorussian villages to which she used to go at night to read the latest communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau. She is known in Moscow also. Rima belonged to a guerrilla youth detachment, named in honor of Captain Gastello. She led part of her detachment on a 1,200 kilometer march through the enemy rear and proved a staunch soldier in many battles and wrecking operations.

On one occasion Rima's detachment was attacking a German garrison which put up furious resistance. An enemy firing point threatened to disrupt the attack. The commander of the guerrillas rushed forward with a grenade, but a bullet felled him. Rima then threw herself on the embrasure of the firing point—giving her life to insure the success of the battle. When the story of her heroism reached Moscow, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet awarded her posthumously the Order of the Red Banner.

When a Soviet woman guerrilla falls into the hands of the Germans, no torture can make her talk. Vera Porshneva was seized by the Germans in Borisovka village, in the Kalinin Region. The enemy subjected her to all the torments their depraved minds could conceive. They whipped her with leather thongs and flung her naked into a cold barn. But they could get nothing from her. They tried promises, but to no avail. Then they drove red-hot needles in her arms and under her nails. She remained silent. Next day they branded a star on her breast. One torment followed another. Before her death the indomitable girl wrote a note to her mother: *Mama, I want so much to live! I have accomplished so little. I want to live so that I can personally take part in crushing these savages. They have tortured me, but I know the guerrillas will avenge my death. The fascists will be made to remember the Russian people! Goodbye, mama, and don't cry. You will be helped.*

There are many girls in the guerrilla detachments who are like Vera Porshneva—ready to lay down their lives for their country. During these momentous days when our victorious troops are smashing the enemy and driving him farther and farther westward, the guerrillas give the Red Army ever increasing aid.

Greatest Honor for Actors

By Evdokia Turchaninova

People's Artist of the USSR and Stalin Prize Winner

More than half a century of my life has been given to the art of the theater. I have acted in hundreds of plays before the most varied audiences. But I have never known such a thrill as when I appeared at the front for the Red Army men and officers.

Our concerts were given in dugouts, blindages and trench clearings, and from the platforms of trucks. It is not of the physical aspects of the performances I am thinking. What impressed me most vividly were the Red Army men I met—the men who daily hourly face death for their country. I talked with real heroes, fearless fighters, whose army records are crowded with countless deeds of valor and resourcefulness.

It is difficult to describe with what attention, veneration and tenderness we were received. They surrounded us with solicitude and affection; they listened breathlessly to the inspired verses of Pushkin, the music of Glinka and the witty lines of Ostrovsky. I was amazed at the profound understanding with which these audiences at the front reacted, the spiritual physiognomy of the Red Army fighter. I understood how seething hatred for the enemy born from great love for the motherland, its people, its liberty, culture and art.

Soviet warriors are taking vengeance on the German barbarians for the outrages on our land, for the violation of our women and the murder of our children, the defilement of our art. The bestiality and cruelty with which the Germans destroy our sacred

monuments, art and architecture know no parallel in the history of civilization.

There is not a single art worker in the Soviet Union who does not consider it an honor to serve the Red Army. Among the young actors of the Maly Theater, I know many who have spent much time at the front: actress Varvara Obukhova, for example, has visited the front 11 times, spending several weeks on each visit. In spite of his advanced years, Alexander Ostuzhev, one of the masters of the Russian stage, has visited the front four times.

As I write these lines Moscow is filled with triumphant salutes to our victories. Crowds of people have come into the streets and squares to applaud the joyful tidings. The German blockade which for two years claimed the beautiful city of Leningrad is lifted; the age-old Russian river, the blue Dnieper, is cleared of the enemy; peaceful life is reawakening, schools are opening and the theater is functioning in Kiev, capital of the Ukraine and mother of Russian cities.

All this is the work of the sincere, modest Red Army men and commanders I met in blindages and dugouts during my visits to the front. I remember their tense faces, their eyes sparkling with joy at the performances, and I see in them the soul of my people, great in its love—and in its wrath. I believe that such a people cannot be conquered, because it has on its side right and justice and humanity, because it is fighting together with all the freedom-loving peoples of the world.

CAPTAIN NINA RUSSAKOVA

Twenty-eight-year-old Captain Nina Russakova is the only woman in the USSR who has mastered the dangerous and complicated profession of test pilot. For about four years Russakova has worked in the Red Army Aerial Scientific Research Institute, admirably fulfilling hundreds of difficult assignments of Command and testing aircraft of 25 new designs. At the beginning she tested only fighters, for she herself was a fighter pilot, but she now works on bombers as well, doing brilliant work in dive tests of the most complex machines.

Russakova has been flying for some 10 years. She did not choose this profession by accident; in her childhood she and her two sisters learned all they

could at the airdrome where their father worked as a designer. Even then the sisters dreamed of learning to fly, and their dream came true: Nina is one of the finest Soviet test pilots, the second sister is a fighter pilot and the youngest is a student in an aviation institute.

In 1943 Russakova took part in a non-stop Khabarovsk-Kirov flight. The plane, piloted by three women, covered about 7,000 kilometers in 22 hours and 30 minutes, under the most difficult meteorological conditions. Russakova loves her work as a test pilot, but would still like to go to the front to fight the Hitlerites alongside her husband, Major Nikolaev, also a flier.

Decree of Supreme Soviet on the Decoration of United States Merchant Marine Officers and Sailors

Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the decoration of United States Merchant Marine officers and sailors with orders and medals:

For valor and courage displayed in delivering arms from the United States to the Soviet Union the following orders are awarded:

The Order of the Red Star to Captain Alexander S. Henry and Clyde Neil Andrews, Second Mate; Edward Michael Fetherson, Third Mate, and Maurice Breen, Purser;

The "For Valor" Medal to Captain J. W. Lintlom, Chief Engineer Frank F. Townsend and K. V. Johnson, Ordinary Seaman;

The "For Distinction in Action" Medal to Captain Harry F. Ryan, Captain R. E. Hocken and Raymond R. Holubowicz, Cadet Midshipman.

(Signed) PRESIDENT OF PRESIDUM OF SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR.
KALININ
SECRETARY OF PRESIDUM OF SUPREME SOVIET OF USSR.
GORKIN

Moscow, Kremlin, February 18, 1944

SOVIET FILMS IN 1943

For the Soviet film industry, 1943 was the most productive year of the war.

Although many studios were changing residence for the second time, on this occasion from east to west, back to their original homes, now freed from the Nazis, several pictures were produced that have gained wide appreciation both at home and abroad.

The highlights of 1943 were the feature films—*In the Country's Name*, *Georgi Saakadze*, *Two Fighting Men*, *Submarine TAU-9*, *Nasredin in Bokhara*, *Front* and *Kutuzov*, and two documentaries, *Battle for Orel* and *Battle for the Soviet Ukraine*. Newsreels, scientific films and animated cartoons for children were also produced.

Soviet cameramen are present in the thick of every major engagement. Valentin Orlyankin, an outstanding craftsman whose work has won him a Stalin Prize, helped to shoot *Stalingrad*. At one point he operated his camera with one hand while hurling grenades at the enemy with the other.

Another cameraman, Boris Sher, recently flew with a Soviet Stormovik crew to take pictures of the bombing of enemy airfields. The Soviet plane was attacked by an enemy fighter. The radio operator-gunner was killed. Boris Sher took his place and shot down the Focke-Wulf. In a flash he was back at the camera recording the crash of the enemy plane.

When Olga Rayevskaya, the well-known Soviet film

star, came to the front to entertain Red Army men, her performance was cut short by a German counter-attack.

"Please leave at once," requested the commanding officer.

"Right," she replied. A few minutes later she was in the thick of the battle, helping the wounded and carrying cartridges.

* * *

The Trade Union of Cinema Workers has greatly assisted the wartime achievements of the Soviet film industry.

Its members have collected several million rubles to build a tank column called "Kinorabotnik" ("The Film Worker").

Film artists regard it as an honor to be included in the brigades directed monthly by the central committee of the Cinema Workers' Union to entertain fighting men. Soviet film workers devote much of their leisure to collecting, salvaging and shipping cinema theater equipment to the areas wrecked by the Nazis.

The children of Soviet film workers spend their summer holidays in country homes, Young Pioneer camps and recreation centers. During the winter holidays the Union arranged New Year's parties, excursions, and skiing and skating parties for them.

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1918

1944

26 YEARS
of the RED ARMY and NAVY

Lenin and Stalin—Organizers of the Red Army

By Major General M. Galaktionov

As far back as the time of the first Russian Revolution (1905), Lenin's powerful mind envisaged the principles of the creation of an armed force of the people, liberated from the shackles of slavery. The people who had defeated the autocracy would create its own State, its people's army which "must in practice supply the military knowledge and military weapons to decide the entire further destiny of the Russian people." Unshakable moral strength drawn from the thick of the popular masses, military organization, and lastly, military technique and knowledge—these were the principles which Lenin laid down for the creation of a future people's army.

The building up of the armed forces of the Soviet State took place amid war, famine and economic ruin. Of that period Stalin said: "It was amid the fire of war that we organized the Red Army and made our country a military camp. The spirit of the great Lenin inspired us then to war against the interventionist invaders. And what was the result? We routed the invaders, recovered all the lost territory and achieved victory."

The strength of the young Red Army lay primarily in the heroism and enthusiasm of its men, in whom was expressed the great upsurge of spirit of the popular masses, who had risen to struggle for the freedom and independence of their Soviet homeland. This moral force of the Red Army as a true people's army enabled its newly-formed, unconsolidated and poorly-armed detachments to beat back the onslaught of the German troops pushing toward Petrograd, and to rout them at Pskov and Narva.

"But enthusiasm alone is not sufficient for waging war against an enemy such as German imperialism," Lenin wrote on March 1, 1918. "To wage war in real, earnest fashion we must have a strong, organized rear. The best army of men most devoted to the cause of the Revolution will be immediately wiped out by the enemy unless they are sufficiently well-armed, supplied with provisions and trained. That is so obvious as to need no further explanation . . . In the face of the enemy's attack, our Army is becoming more realistically rebuilt . . . The Red Army unquestionably represents splendid fighting material; but it is raw material and unwrought. If it is not

to become cannon fodder for German guns, it must be trained and disciplined."

In the course of the Civil War there grew up an organized and disciplined Red Army consisting of millions, who fought on numerous fronts, united by firm, strategic leadership. The mind and will of two titans—Lenin and Stalin—accomplished the vast work of organizing the armed forces of the Soviet Republic. It was their creative cooperation which made possible the accomplishment of the extremely hard task of building up the Soviet armed forces under the most difficult conditions in history.



Lenin's fiery words aroused the enthusiasm of the men, inspired their firm confidence in the victory of the people, and forged a new discipline in the Army, of which Lenin said in the spring of 1919: "The Red Army has produced a discipline of unparalleled firmness, not enforced by a stick but based on the intelligence, devotion and self-denial of the workers and peasants themselves."

At the same time, the great founder of the Soviet State took a constant interest in the daily work of building the armed forces. Each day instructions came from the Kremlin dealing with the setting up of military machinery, direction of operations at the fronts, organization of new formations of the Red Army, and on the questions of its cadres, food supplies, equipment and arms. To the most responsible fronts where the issue of the war was in the balance, Lenin sent Stalin.

"The successes of our Army are explained primarily by its consciousness and discipline . . . Of no less importance is the emergence of cadres of Red officers recruited from former soldiers who received their baptism of fire in many battles. These Red officers are our Army's main cement in consolidating it into a single disciplined body." (Stalin, 1918.)

After Lenin's death his favorite child, the Red Army, continued to develop and grow stronger under the constant guidance of Stalin. As a result of Stalin's Five-Year Plans, Lenin's behest on the industrialization of the country was carried out, and the idea expressed by Lenin of the necessity of equipping the Red Army with modern weapons was realized.

Unshakable is the foundation of the Red Army's strength laid by the Soviet people under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin. "The Soviet Government set up 26 years ago has transformed our country in a historically short period of time into an impregnable fortress. The Red Army's rear is more stable and reliable than that of any other army in the world." (Stalin.)

In the present war the heroic Red Army is fighting against the German army, which is supplied with the most up-to-date military and technical resources, and which in 1940 routed the French Army—one of the best on the European Continent. The Germans hoped to quickly finish off the Red Army. But Lenin's and Stalin's foresight insured the proper road of development for the Soviet armed forces. Thanks to Stalin's direct guidance the Red Army was armed and organized according to the requirements of modern warfare.

During the war, experience has served as a basis

for the further rapid development of the military technique and armament of the Red Army. Important changes have been introduced in the organizational structure of its formations; new manuals have been drawn up. Under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin, the Red Army has achieved first-class tactical skill and strategic mastery. In brilliant operations conducted under the most trying conditions its troops have gained mastery over the German army and inflicted severe defeats upon it.

Lenin's words spoken nearly 40 years ago regarding the practical application of military knowledge and weapons by a people's army have come true. On fields of gigantic battles the Red Army, equipped with the most perfect weapons and with Stalin's science of warfare, is successfully accomplishing the historic task of the Soviet people in the war against the German imperialists. Lenin's brilliant successor, Joseph Stalin, is leading the Soviet regiments to final victory over the enemy.



For outstanding heroism and success, a Long-Range Bomber Division receives the Guards Banner. Major General of the Air Forces Guryanov, Member of the Military Council (right), congratulates the Division Commander, Major General of the Air Forces Yukhanov

National Military Formations in the Red Army

By M. Volkov

In accordance with the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR at its 10th Session, the Union Republics will organize their own military formations. This will serve to further strengthen the Red Army as the defender of the country and reliable bulwark of the Soviet Union.

The creation of such formations is a particularly vivid expression of the nature of the Red Army as an army of brotherhood of the peoples of the Soviet land, as an army called upon to defend the freedom and independence of the peoples of the great Soviet Union.

Prior to the establishment of Soviet power some nationalities and peoples inhabiting the expanses which are now the Soviet Union were not conscripted for military service. Tsardom, which oppressed those peoples, did not trust them with arms. In Soviet times the situation has radically changed. The October Revolution put an end to all restrictions upon the rights of the peoples living in Russia, including all restrictions in regard to admitting citizens to the ranks of the armed forces. From the first day of its existence the Red Army grew and developed as a multi-national army, an army of the great fraternal commonwealth of peoples.

At the time of the Civil War the Red Army already had in its ranks some national units which more than once covered themselves with glory in battle. The first of the national formations of the Red Army came into being at the dawn of its existence, but at that time those formations could not fully develop. The nationalities and peoples whom Tsardom would not trust with arms did not, because of this, have a sufficient number of trained military cadres. It was all the more difficult to develop such cadres since some of the people still bore the heavy burden of backwardness, that inevitable concomitant of colonial or semi-colonial subjection.

Some time had to elapse before actual enrollments into the Red Army could be carried out throughout the Soviet Union. And only now, when this time has passed and the great and glorious road of political, economic and cultural progress has been traversed by all the peoples of the Soviet Union, can the organization of national military formations of the Union Republics be placed on a firm foundation.

The present war has driven this home quite forcefully. For nearly three years we have been waging a great Patriotic War against German fascism and its allies, who have recourse to the material and manpower resources of all Europe. This has been a new and very severe test for the multi-national Soviet

State. But the Soviet Union has stood this test, too, with honor. In the ranks of the Red Army all the peoples of the Soviet Union fight with equal courage and heroism to attain victory and to rout the hated enemy. Their hearts are gripped with the same feelings and they are moved by the same will.

Last year when the wholesale expulsion of the enemy from the Ukraine had begun, Kazakh Red Army men who set foot on the first bit of liberated Ukrainian soil fell to their knees and fervently kissed that soil which had endured so much and which is equally dear to all Soviet soldiers, irrespective of nationality.

In the list of Heroes of the Soviet Union who earned this high title by immortal exploits in the battles of Stalingrad, on the Dnieper and in Byelorussia shine the names of Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Uzbeks, Georgians, Tajiks, Azerbaijanians, Armenians—the names of gallant sons of all the peoples of the USSR. In the common struggle against the fascist invaders the friendship among the peoples of the Soviet Union, sealed by blood, has become still stronger. The glorious deeds of the national military formations now operating in the Red Army represent one of the most remarkable and vivid expressions of the friendship of the peoples.

We need but recall the Eighth Panfilov Guards Division, decorated with the Order of the Red Banner and the Order of Lenin, which is composed of the sons of free Kazakhstan. The name of this division is associated with many heroic deeds and immortal exploits.

The Lettish Division which valiantly performed its duty in the Battle for Moscow, near Staraya Russa, and in the Demyansk salient has become a Guards Division. Over 3 000 of its men and officers have been decorated with orders and medals of the Soviet Union. Lithuanian warriors have twice earned the gratitude of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal of the Soviet Union Stalin. Over 3,300 men and officers of this division have been decorated. The 416th Red Banner Division, made up of Azerbaijanians, has on two occasions been cited by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief.

The heroic traditions of the individual peoples, imbibed by the soldiers of the national divisions with their mothers' milk, fusing with the traditions of the entire Red Army, produce an alloy stronger than steel. The soldiers of the national military formations are fighting with selfless bravery and high skill for the liberation of every inch of Soviet earth, whether in the Ukraine, in Byelorussia or at ancient



Hero of the Soviet Union Guards Major Malik Gabdulin at his home near Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan. Major Gabdulin is shown with the Kazakh people's poet Djambul and his grandson, and Kazakh writer S. Mukanov

Novgorod—for every inch of the Soviet country which is dear to all of them.

The Red Army has always been near and dear to the peoples of the Soviet Union. During the Patriotic War the love of the peoples of the USSR for their Army has become stronger, and still greater and more universal has become the pride of the Soviet people in the Red Army's heroism. This finds expression in the fact that today every people of every Union Republic of the USSR is doing its utmost to help the Red Army, to make the greatest possible contribution to the further increase of its might and the enhancement of its glory.

In a message to a soldier of Uzbekistan, the Uzbek people sternly enjoined him "to be the best among the sons of thy family, and the best and most outstanding soldier in the ranks of the Soviet peoples." In these penetrating words are expressed the feelings of all the peoples of the Soviet land who see their honor and their glory in the military exploits of their sons, soldiers in the ranks of the Red Army. It is hardly necessary to dwell on the fact that now when all the peoples of the USSR have attained to places of honor in the ranks of the Red Army, the organiza-

tion of military formations in the Republics has before it particularly great and bright prospects.

Unlike the situation in previous years, every Union Republic now has not only cadres of rank and file soldiers, but certain cadres of commanding personnel capable of directing the corresponding military units. The Red Army has more than 10 Lettish generals developed and steeled in battle, and large numbers of Lettish officers trained in the Stalin school of fighting. Among the tested commanders of the Red Army are 108 Byelorussian generals. There are experienced masters of victory such as the sons of the Georgian people, Generals Chanchibadze and others; and more than 10 Armenian generals, among whom is General Bagramyan, Commander of the First Baltic Front.

There is a firm basis for the development of the armed forces of the Union Republics in the general system of the armed forces of the Soviet Union. There are sufficient possibilities for military formations in the Union Republics. This new embodiment of the increased friendship among the peoples of the Soviet land is bound to enhance the defensive might of the Soviet Union.

THE RED ARMY

By Colonel S. Gavrilov

The Red Army is 26 years old. It was born on February 23, 1918. This was the date of the battles of Pskov and Narva, when the German hordes marching on Petrograd were stopped by a detachment of the new Soviet Army.

Even in those days, at the time of its birth, the Red Army displayed features which marked it as an



Army General Leonid Govorov, one of the commanders of the forces which liberated Leningrad

army of a new type. It was an army created from a nation-wide movement to resist the German invader, an army of the people, an army of national defense.

"The country is in danger!" Lenin's call resounded throughout the whole country. And it was in response to this call that the new army began to form. The battles of Pskov and Narva were only the be-

ginning of the patriotic war of the Soviet people against the German invader. They were followed by an uninterrupted series of battles—both in the Ukraine and in Byelorussia. The Red Army fought and defeated the Germans at Kiev and in the Donbas, on the Don and in the North Caucasus.

In these battles the Red Army built up its military tradition—the tradition of fighting and defeating the German invader.

In the history of the young Red Army there were critical moments when the enemy dealt it drastic blows and seemed to be on the verge of victory. Defeats which in another country would have caused demoralization and complete disintegration of the army, only strengthened the Red Army's will to win and the Soviet people's readiness to incur any sacrifice to help their army recover its strength and convert defeat into victory. The Red Army and the working population displayed marvelous valor in resisting the German invaders. Women, old men and children, together with the soldiers, defended their cities against an enemy armed to the teeth.

The defense of Tsaritsyn (now Stalingrad) in the summer and autumn of 1918 put an end to the plans of the whiteguards, supported by the Germans, for the conquest of Soviet Russia. The defense of Vladikavkaz and Grozny in 1918, of Petrograd in 1919 and of Tula were all prototypes of that inimitable mastery of the defense of cities which the Red Army is displaying today in the war against the Nazi armies.

The workers proudly called themselves "Red Army men of the rear." Starving and exhausted though they were, they performed miracles. The enemy was nearing Tula, but this celebrated Russian arsenal did not suspend work for a single moment. The hand of an agent of Germany was outstretched to sieze Petrograd; death was reaping a rich harvest in the starving city; but the Petrograd workers stuck to their jobs. Women built fortifications around the city and the children helped the soldiers. Thus we find that from the very beginning the Red Army displayed that fundamental trait which has characterized it all along—namely, its extraordinary virility and tenacity. An army which has the support of its people is invincible. And it is in this identification with the people that the strength of the Red Army lies.

At that time the Red Army vanquished all its adversaries. It did this because it was a people's army, because its men understood the aim and purpose of the war and knew they were in the right, and this knowledge strengthened their spirit of discipline and

their military efficiency. Time after time the Red Army men displayed a spirit of mass heroism and self-sacrifice.

The Red Army was the heir of Russian military art. In 1918 the most efficient regiments of the old Russian army were merged with it. They brought with them the fighting traditions of the Russian army, the traditions of the first regular regiments of Peter I, of Suvorov and of Kutuzov.

An army is a facsimile of its country, of the latter's social system and its economic and political order. The Red Army is an army of the Soviet country. The advantages of the socialist system are also the advantages of the Red Army. But these advantages had to be embodied in material force, in modern weapons, in military skill and the art of strategy.

Under Stalin's leadership the Soviet people in an extraordinarily short time created a powerful industry and a first-class modern army equipped with the most perfected weapons and machines of war and possessing trained and skilled cadres of officers and commanders. But the experience gained in the Civil War was not enough to insure the successful conduct of modern warfare. Hitler's plans were in fact based on the premise that the Red Army was a young army with newly-formed and inexperienced commanding cadres, and according to his strategists it would be beaten before it had a chance to adapt itself to the requirements of modern warfare.

But these expectations were built on sand. The generals and officers of the Red Army had made a thorough study of the art of war in peacetime, had drawn the lessons from the war in the West, and guided by Marshal Stalin very rapidly mastered the methods of modern warfare. The Red Army drew all the lessons that were to be drawn from the present war as it progressed, and adapted itself accordingly. Following Stalin's teachings it was able to transform itself with extraordinary rapidity into an absolutely up-to-date army equipped with the most modern armaments and possessing skilled and efficient commanders.

For 32 months the Red Army has been locked in a life and death struggle with fascist Germany and her vassals. In the course of these 32 months it has dispelled the myth of the invincibility of the German army. It has also disposed of another myth—namely, the alleged superiority of the Germans in the art of war. It is now clear to all that Soviet generals are superior to the Germans in the art and science of warfare.

The greatest battles in world history, won by the Red Army, will be studied for ages to come as classical models of military skill. Stalin's strategy will find its place in military science as a supreme example of the art of generalship. These 32 months have been equivalent to a whole epoch.

The summer and autumn of 1941 were a hard and trying time for the Red Army and the Soviet people. The German invaders, enjoying the advantages of surprise and superiority of forces (especially in tanks and aircraft), with their army fully mobilized and armed to the teeth, already possessing rich experience in the conduct of modern war and confident of an easy victory, invaded the Soviet land, seized the border regions and swept in a seemingly irresistible tide toward Moscow.

The young and still inexperienced Red Army beat a fighting retreat eastward, constantly dealing the enemy telling and devastating blows. Not only the



Army General Konstantin K. Rokossovsky, Cavalier of the Order of Suvorov, First Degree

foes but also the friends of the Soviet Union were certain that the Red Army could not withstand such an assault for long, that within a few weeks or a few months at most the war would end in a victory for Germany.

But that is not what the Soviet people thought, or what the men and commanders of the Red Army felt. The thoughts and feelings of Soviet patriots were expressed by a Soviet officer of the heroic Panfilov Division, who together with 27 others stood his ground

against 50 German tanks at the station of Dubosekovo near Moscow: *Russia is vast, but there is no place to retreat: behind us is Moscow.* The 28 heroes perished, but the tanks did not pass. That is the way the Soviet people thought and acted in those grim days.

The Germans were stopped at Moscow and then hurled back with heavy losses from the Capital of the Soviet Union, having been dislodged a little before that from Rostov-on-Don and from Tikhvin.

But the enemy was still strong. He was still in a position, by concentrating superior forces on one or another sector, to strike a formidable blow. And it was for just such a blow that the Red Army now prepared.

A blow of this character was struck by the German army in the summer of 1942 on the Southwestern Front. The Germans' plan was to reach the Middle Volga, then to flank Moscow from the east and cut it off from its Volga and Urals rear, to seize possession of it by striking from the east, and thus to end the war in 1942. The Germans aimed a subsidiary blow at the Caucasus, with the aim of diverting the Red Army reserves from Moscow to the south and at the same time seizing possession of the Caucasian oil-fields.

This second stratagem, too, was hard on the Red Army. The Germans forced their way through to Stalingrad and invaded its streets. They made frantic efforts to reach the Volga and to cut off the central regions of the Soviet Union from the grain and oil of the Caucasus. Grave peril menaced the Soviet Union. But the Red Army withstood this blow also. Stalingrad's defenders displayed superior bravery and unparalleled courage and heroism. The battle for this hero city marked the turning point in the course of the Soviet-German war.

The time had now come when the Red Army was not only able to put up a defense and now and again to strike back at the enemy, but to pass to a vigorous offensive along the whole front.

November 19, 1942, is a historic date in the life of the Red Army. On that day Soviet troops launched the offensive at Stalingrad. They surrounded and annihilated the German army, 330,000 strong, and then advanced swiftly westward. The wholesale ejection of the enemy from the Soviet land began. The battle of Stalingrad presaged the decline of the German army.

In the summer of 1943 the Germans started a big offensive in the Kursk area, in an attempt to recover lost ground. But as we know, this offensive ended in

a fiasco. The Red Army not only repulsed it, but itself passed to the offensive, and ever since has been steadily driving the enemy westward, evicting him from one Soviet region after another. The battle of Kursk brought the German-fascist army to the brink of disaster.

They now adopted a policy of protracting the war as long as possible. They began to erect defense zones and "walls," and claimed they were invulnerable. But the Red Army upset their hopes, broke through their defense zones and "walls," and continued the advance without allowing the Germans any respite. Neither rivers nor powerful fortifications have been able to save the Germans. The Red Army forced such water barriers as the Northern Donets, the Desna, Sozh and Dnieper Rivers; it demolished such defensive zones as the Germans had erected on the Mius and Molochnaya Rivers and at Melitopol, and the permanent type of fortifications at Leningrad, and is now inflicting defeat on the Germans far from the walls of Leningrad and far beyond the Dnieper.

All these tremendous victories of the Red Army, which are a source of legitimate pride to the Soviet people, did not come easily. The Red Army has suffered incredible hardships and privations; during these 32 months it knew the bitterness of retreat, it lost many thousands of its finest men, but it stood firm and emerged victorious from all these difficulties, for it is inspired by the spirit of Lenin and is led by Stalin. From all tests and trials it has emerged more powerful, more disciplined and organized than ever.

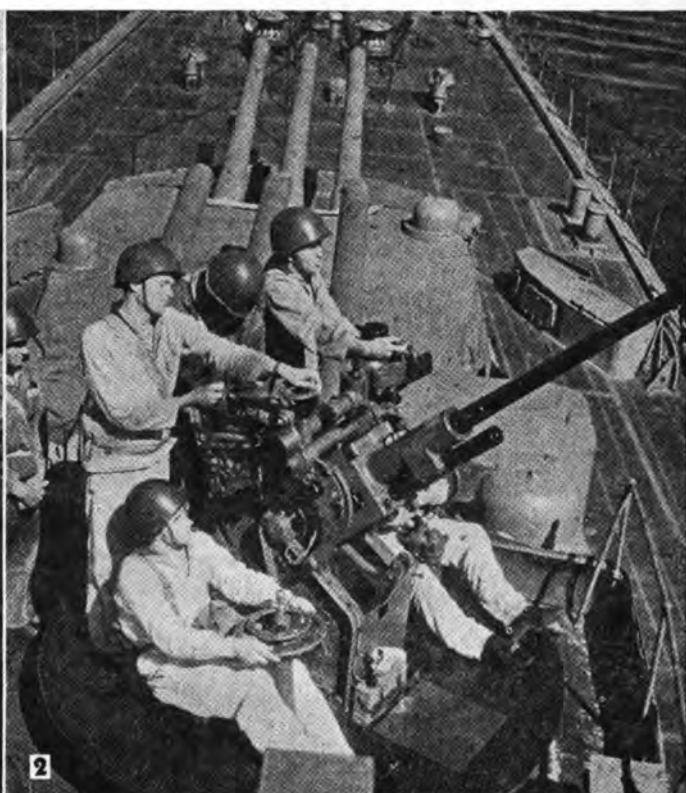
The Red Army and the Soviet people generally have a sober estimate of the enemy's strength; they know that the road to final victory will be sown with thorns; that immense sacrifice and privation and a colossal exertion of effort will be demanded. But the lofty and noble aims of this Patriotic War of liberation inspires the Red Army and the Soviet people to ever fresh deeds of valor and fortitude.

The peoples of the Soviet Union have always cherished a feeling of kinship and love for the Red Army. This feeling has grown even stronger in the course of the war, and the achievements and heroism of their army fill them with universal pride.

The Red Army is a multi-national army. In its ranks, fighting shoulder to shoulder, are all the nationalities of the Soviet Union—Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Georgians, Armenians, Tatars, Kalmyks, Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Turkmenians and Kirghizians. And each of them, wherever he may be fighting, is defending his homeland, his Soviet motherland.



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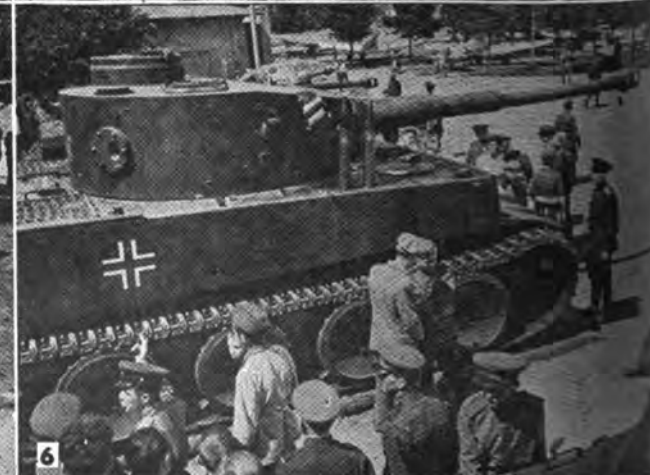
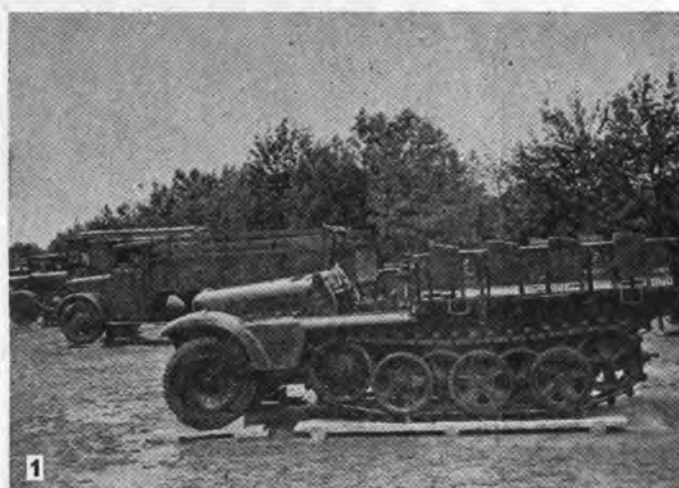
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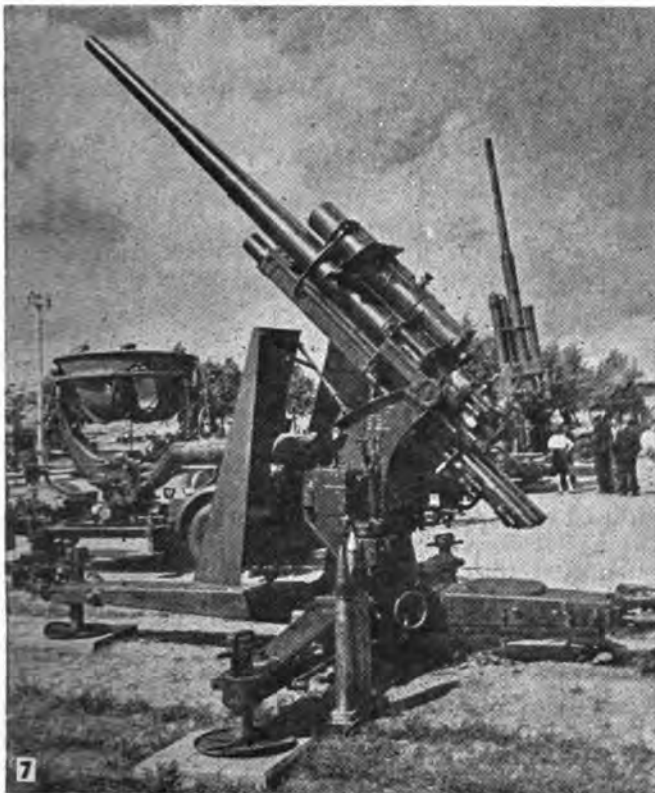
WITH THE MEN OF THE RED NAVY—(1) These scouts will go ashore on the enemy-held coast; (2) Anti-aircraft guns in action; (3) An anti-aircraft crew on watch; (4) Captain of the Third Rank Uvarov receives the "For the Defense of Sevastopol" Medal

Moscow Exhibits German Armament Captured

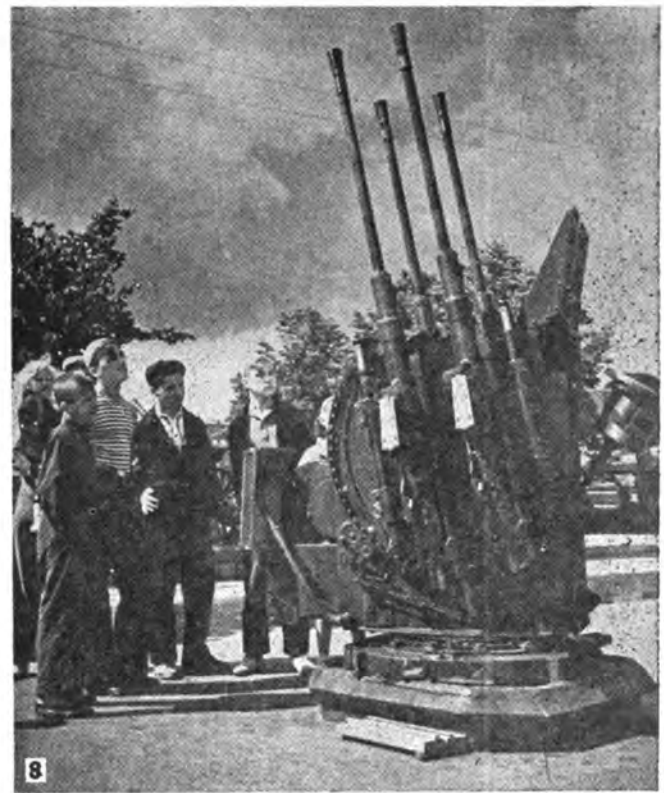


(1) German trucks and traction vehicles; (2) Artillery section—heavy guns; (3) An entire German tank column captured in one battle; (4) Six-barreled trench-mortars; (5) Heavy 211-mm. howitzers; (6) The T-6 Tiger tank

from Early Days of War to Recent Battles



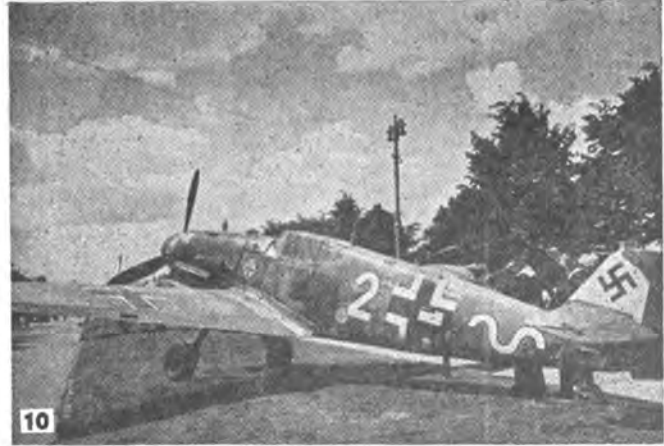
German anti-aircraft installations and guns. In the foreground is an 88-mm. anti-aircraft gun



Quadruple 20-mm. anti-aircraft gun. This type is usually mounted on a truck



The Nazi Focke-Wulf 230



A Messerschmitt 109, flown by a German ace

GUARDS AIR DIVISION ADOPTS CITY

By S. Bank

When in the autumn of 1943 the Red Army liberated the Donbas, industrial center of Russia and the Ukraine, a certain Guards Air Division distinguished



Ready for a flight across the German frontier

itself in the battles for the coastal city of Mariupol. By order of Marshal Stalin the title of "Mariupol Division" was conferred upon it.

It is interesting to follow the history of this air formation in battle. Since the outbreak of the war



Collective farmers of the Platonov District, Tambov Region, contributed funds for construction of long-range bombers, which were handed over to the finest Soviet crews. The plane shown above bears the name "Platonov," in honor of the farmers. Its crew has been twice decorated, and has made over 140 flights against enemy bases and deep into the German rear, bombing Berlin, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw

its pilots have brought down more than 900 German planes in air combat. Half of its men have been awarded orders and medals. Thirty-four have received the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union; these include aces such as Captain Dmitri Glinka and Major Alexander Pokryshkin, whose names are known to everyone. Major Pokryshkin, who has brought down 55 fascist aircraft in single combat, has been twice named Hero of the Soviet Union, and has also been decorated with an American military order and received a gift of flying togs from President Roosevelt.

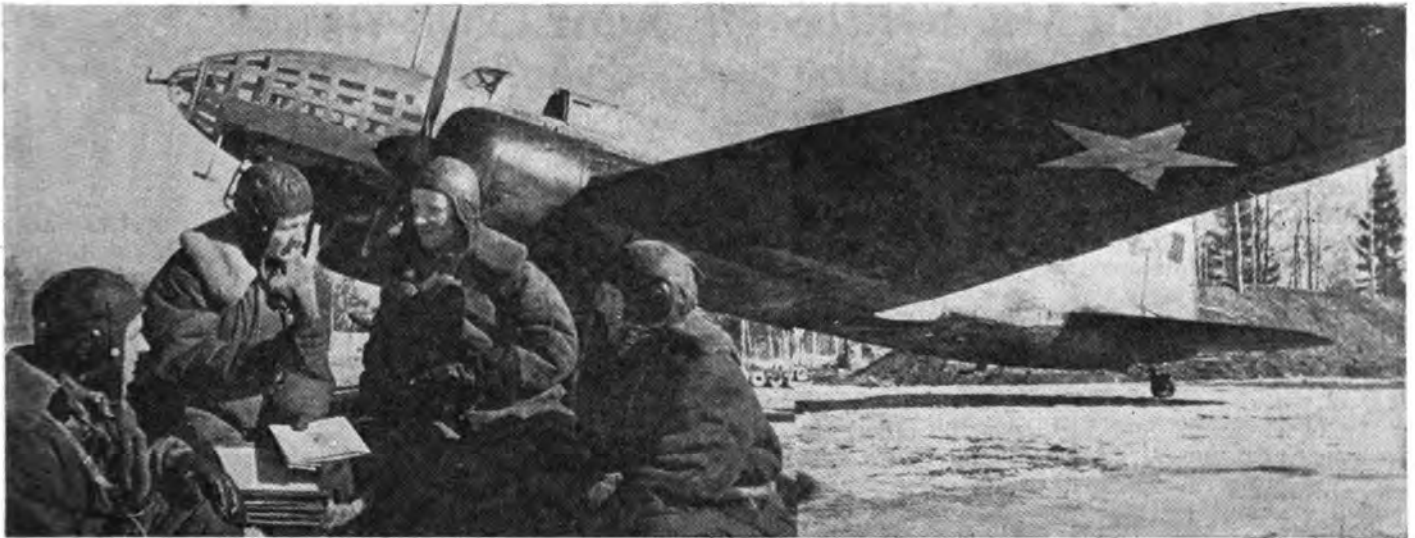
The entire Guards Air Division which helped to liberate Mariupol and now bears the name of that once beautiful and green seaside city, keeps in close touch with its inhabitants. For nearly two years the Hitlerites maintained their bandit rule in Mariupol and wrecked practically all its large buildings, leaving intact only some one-story houses. They dynamited the great Azovstal metallurgical works, blew up and burned the harbor installations and canneries. They shot thousands of citizens.

Reconstruction began immediately after the city's liberation. The men and officers of the Mariupol Air Division undertook to aid in the restoration of their namesake city. They collected over 500,000 rubles for the reconstruction fund, to be used chiefly in building children's homes, nurseries and dining rooms.

This friendship between the townspeople and the pilots who have adopted them grows stronger daily. Several times delegations of workers have visited the Air Division at the front, to see how their liberators work and fight, and the Guardsmen send their delegations to Mariupol, where they talk at meetings of workers and learn what they are doing to help the fighting front.

Just before the New Year the pilots concluded a kind of agreement with the people of Mariupol—promising to make every effort to increase the number of enemy planes brought down and the number of troop trains, motor vehicles and tanks bombed; on their part the townspeople pledged to restore the city and its industries with the greatest possible speed.

The agreement is being well kept on both sides. Despite the lull on their sector the Guards pilots have brought down over 20 enemy planes and destroyed hundreds of railway cars loaded with ammunition and troops. In the same period the citizens of Mariupol have rebuilt a number of shops and restored the Drama Theater.



Another bomber of the Platonov group about to take off. (Left to right) Junior Lieutenant Semenyak, navigator; Junior Lieutenant Shtanko, pilot; Junior Sergeant Beed, bombardier, and Sergeant Sergeyev, gunner and radio operator. In their combined ages, this happens to be the youngest crew in the regiment



Parachutes are carefully tested before each flight



The air gunner on duty

MEMORIES OF STALINGRAD

By Major General Gleb Baklanov

When I left Stalingrad in the spring of 1943 I felt as though I were parting with something near and dear to me, a phase of my life which would remain in my memory more vividly than that which preceded or followed in the struggle against the German invaders to preserve the liberty and independence of my country.

I remembered the first days of September, 1942. In the morning the horizon was red with the burning city. My division was ready for action. On the way to the observation post I passed the officers of the Tyumen Artillery and Trench-Mortar Units, who were checking their equipment over and over. Their movements and general aspect indicated cool self-confidence and impatience for battle. Alert, they were waiting for the word to send them into action.

At one trench I paused to have a look at machine-gunner Petrayev, the division's shortest member and a future hero of the Stalingrad battles. How will this young little Russian machine-gunner stand the test, I wondered? Petrayev reported that he was ready; then he stood and gazed at the smoke over Stalingrad in the distance.

"We'll fix them for that," he murmured to himself. His words were full of hatred for the enemy of Russia, a hatred which carries us into battle and decides the outcome. I went on my way calmly, certain of the success of our operations.

Only "local actions" were registered on our sector, but we were preparing night and day for the decisive attack. Our snipers were training strenuously—men who had annihilated from 50 to 100 Germans each. The same was true of the infantry, busily rehearsing night actions, while trench-mortar crews and artillerymen developed their skill directly on the battlefield.

Heartened by the successes of our neighboring forces, we impatiently awaited the beginning of the general offensive. At last, on January 10, 1943, the order came. All realized that the decisive and final phase of the Battle of Stalingrad had begun.

Everything clicked perfectly as the struggle unfolded on an ever-increasing scale. No one noticed the passing of hours, days and nights. What counted was the achievement of a task, the number of enemy dead, the quantity of armaments destroyed and the prisoners and trophies taken. Amazing courage, endurance and will for victory were displayed by all. Officers and men who had been wounded twice and

three times continued in action as long as they could hold their weapons.

Our division was to ride over the last of the enemy defense lines, a deep gully with steep sides, known as Mokraya Mechetka. Beyond the city lay the workers' settlement of the tractor plant and the Red October plant. Our first attempts to cut across the gully were unsuccessful; it was swept by a cross-fire from machine guns and trench-mortars. Some of our men who had gained the opposite side of the great ditch were unable to scale the steep, slippery inclines, eight to 10 meters high.

The regiment reported: "We shall fight in Suvorov fashion. Mechetka shall be taken by storm like Ismail!"

The end of the day and the first half of the night were spent in improvising ladders and organizing and preparing storming units. On the following evening Efimov demonstratively removed the regiment from Mechetka, leaving only the best of his snipers and gun crews within close range of the enemy to cover his withdrawal. At the same time heavy trench-mortar and machine-gun fire was concentrated to the left. The Germans decided that we had abandoned the attempt to advance at this section.

At three in the morning an artillery duel and obvious preparations for an attack were begun in another direction to distract the enemy, while the men of Yefimov's regiment crawled along the bottom of Mechetka in white capes. With them they carried ladders painted white; thus they massed for the final onslaught. Trench-mortar and artillery crews were ready to let fly their devastating cross-fire to foil possible enemy attempts to counter-attack. The outcome was eventually decided by the secrecy of our maneuvers and the speed and suddenness of our attack upon the German defenses beyond the gully. Mechetka was stormed.

During the summer battles of 1943 our division saw the formidable Soviet machines with the words "Stalingrad's Reply" on their turrets crash the enemy's defenses. It will be difficult for anyone who has not participated to understand our sensations during this break-through, our feeling of indivisibility with the rear, our pride in the victories achieved, our feeling of responsibility to our country in the fulfillment of our task to liberate the land and our people from German bondage, our hatred for the enemy and our desire to avenge Russia's blood. These sentiments will carry us to victory.

STALINGRAD



Cartoon by Kukriniksi

“On the Volga there is a rock . . .”

—Russian Folk Song

Organic Weakness of Nazi Strategy

I

Underestimation of Role of Modern Fronts

The art of Suvorov and Napoleon still retains its vitality. Military leaders of our epoch can learn much from it. But the direction of war has become infinitely more complicated.

The establishment, fortification and supply of the fronts, the choice of the direction of the main blow, the breaking-through and smashing of the enemy front, unrelenting pursuit aimed at crushing the enemy—that is the real, the vital content of modern strategy. It is the art of leading troops under conditions in which there inevitably arise continuous fronts cutting through the entire theater of war.

This formula arose from the experience of the First World War. It has been confirmed during the Second World War.

Super-Mobility

Modern military art is developing not only in a very complicated, but also in a contradictory form. The defenses of the continuous fronts in the present war are more powerful than in the last war. Yet modern technique provides unprecedented opportunities for the swift movement of masses of troops. A mechanized grouping, equipped with all arms and capable of solving tactical and operative tasks independently, in the most favorable conditions can cover as much as 125 miles in 24 hours—ten times as much as infantry and five times as much as cavalry.

Then take the air force, which has now been given its own infantry—paratroops and landing troops. It has become exceptionally important as a means of military transport. Moreover, the military air forces which exceed the speed of movement of infantry possess unlimited expanses for maneuver, at speeds dozens of times over.

Positional War

Unprecedented possibilities have been opened up for the war of maneuver. The art of leading troops has been given an entirely new basis. It demands that a general shall be competent to direct forces capable of moving at tremendous and at the same time varying speeds. And side by side with this colossal maneuverability exist stable fronts which confine all movement and underline the positional nature of certain forms of modern battle.

All these contradictions are solved in the strategy of the Red Army. The defeats which the Germans are sustaining are not fortuitous: they reveal im-

mense discrepancies and miscalculations in the enemy's entire method of conducting the war.

The conception of "lightning war"—the famous "blitzkrieg"—arose from the predatory imperialist nature of German fascism. To carry out this wild plan the Nazis created a gigantic war machine, the basis of which was the mechanized force and the air force. The German command, relying on the destructive force of this army and its capacity for vigorous action, hoped to conduct the war in the form of swift campaigns.

Germany's Basic Discrepancy

How were the Nazis to overcome the obvious discrepancy between the manpower and material resources of fascist Germany and her "allies," and of the overwhelming majority of mankind, which they proposed to enslave? This did not embarrass Berlin. They thought to nullify the disparity by an insidious policy of splitting the freedom-loving peoples and crushing them one by one.

The chief shortcoming of Nazi strategy, therefore, is the discrepancy between its objects and its means. The Nazis base their calculations on temporary, ephemeral factors: on outstripping their enemies in preparations for and speed of action, on creating numerical superiority in the different theaters of war. At the same time they display a complete disregard of permanent factors: the moral-political state of the troops and the home front; the correlation of forces and material resources on the tremendous scale of the World War.

The adventurist nature of German strategy inevitably gave rise to discrepancies and miscalculations regarding various operative-strategic and tactical questions, regarding methods of conducting operations and battles, regarding the structure and organization of the armed forces.

These miscalculations are many, but there is one that looms very large among them: *the underestimation of the role of the present-day fronts*. In 1941 the Germans were routed before Moscow. In 1942 they suffered still more crushing defeats at Stalingrad. When it passed this milestone the German-fascist army entered on the downgrade to final defeat. But even before Stalingrad something very significant had occurred, something which future historians will assess as an important symptom of the impending fiasco of German strategy: in the spring of 1942 the gigantic Soviet front was stabilized over its whole length from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea.

I do not say that the German command failed en-



Cartoon by Kukriniksi

tirely to foresee the possibility that continuous and more or less stable fronts might be established. Without a doubt, the Germans made a careful study of the experience of the First World War, and they knew perfectly well what fronts mean.

Blitzkrieg Machine Meant to Destroy Fronts

The Germans lost the last war precisely because they found themselves ringed by fronts: the Russian, Balkan, Italian and Western fronts. The outlets to the sea expanses were blockaded by the British Fleet. All attempts to break the blockade on land and sea were fruitless. After violent battles, Germany capitulated as a consequence of exhaustion and defeat on the fronts.

All this the Nazis knew. And they created their monstrous war machine as a weapon for the destruction of fronts. The campaign of 1940, in which they broke the front in something like a month, seemed to justify their confidence in their weapon.

But matters took a different turn on the Soviet front. After Moscow they tried to console themselves

by saying they had succeeded in halting the Red Army offensive. They protested that their army was prepared for defensive war. With feverish haste they erected engineering constructions along the fronts, and it must be admitted that they succeeded in building a powerful defense line.

Their fortifications before Leningrad were a model of their kind. In the forward lines they laid anti-tank and anti-infantry minefields 40 yards deep. Then they had lines of blockhouses, usually strong enough to stand 76-mm. shells. Some of the blockhouses, covered with rails and concrete slabs, were able to withstand even larger caliber shells. The embrasures were covered with steel screens as protection against hand-grenades. These lines of blockhouses were protected by barbed-wire entanglements, nucleus trenches, ordinary trenches, communication trenches and dugouts. The firing system created what the enemy believed to be an impenetrable barrier.

But the very existence of this front bristling with fortifications signified one basic fact: that the Red Army had succeeded in halting the Hitlerite war ma-

capable of withstanding its troops. Complete contempt for the enemy is characteristic of the German doctrine of war.

It never entered the heads of the fascist adventurers, steeped in their arrogance and self-confidence, that the Red Army, being a new army and possessing the historical advantages inherent in the Soviet order, would solve the most complicated problems of modern warfare more successfully than the vaunted German troops. That is why the present German retreat before the Red Army is not only a purely military defeat, but also a most powerful moral defeat—and these defeats are the most disastrous.

During the period of warfare on the fields of Western Europe the miscalculations of the German command and the shortcomings in its strategy could be observed only by the most attentive and experienced eye. The easy victories and the rolling of the fascist drums overwhelmed those voices which pointed out that the German war machine was not quite so omnipotent.

The defeats in German-fascist strategy began to appear clearly only when the German army had clashed with a powerful opponent, the Red Army. And the reason we are now celebrating our great victories lies in the superiority of Soviet weapons, in the superiority of the wise Stalinist strategy.

III

Underestimation of Active Defense

The Germans, as we have seen, overestimated the strength of their offensive. But German strategy did not collapse of itself, but as a result of the difficult struggle in which the Red Army earned immortal glory. The task of withstanding the onslaught of the powerfully armed German army was a question of living practice, calling for the mobilization of all the forces of our land to fight the mortal enemy. But it was also a question of profound military theory.

The possibility of halting the German offensive implied the formation of a defensive front, continuous and stable, for a more or less considerable period. This task was solved in a way unforeseen by the German command. Briefly, it was solved by active defense.

This active defense was in fact a most complicated system of measures. The heroic struggle of all arms was combined with the most intensive effort on the Soviet home front. In its strategic defense the Red Army took full advantage of the great mobility and maneuverability of modern mobile forces, combined with the defensive fire power of field fortifications.

The firm line of Soviet defense eventually evolved

from an exceptionally swift and complicated struggle of maneuver, in which the Red Army constantly inflicted counter-blows on the enemy and gained a number of brilliant victories.

The Germans Remember Maginot

The strategic defense of the Red Army was successful only because it was highly active, imbued with the offensive spirit. Passive defense, relying blindly on the strength of defensive fortifications, is doomed to failure. The irony of fate! The German generals who entered our land in full "blitzkrieg" armor are having to recall that in 1940 the Maginot Line did not save France from defeat.

The unparalleled defeat of the Germans at Stalingrad was the beginning of a number of consecutive offensive operations by the Red Army. Today an entirely new and original solution has been given to the problem of smashing the front. The strategic plan of the Supreme Command of the Red Army is the exact reverse of the adventurist strategic plan of the German command. In carrying out the smashing of the front strict account is taken of the true circumstances; it is done systematically, in a series of consecutive operations.

All the usual defense methods of the German command have proved worthless. The chief means of opposing break-throughs was considered to be planing maneuvering with reserves in the rear of the front. But this method is parried by the subsequent operations of the Red Army, which extend the breaking of the front to adjacent sectors, with the simultaneous development of the offensive in depth.

The German command is faced with ever increasing strategic threats. Soviet offensive operations, which break open the front over an ever greater area, have disorientated the German command and bankrupted its whole system of maneuvering with reserves.

Triumphant Defense, Victorious Attack

The ill-starred rulers of Hitlerite Germany, who unfurled the black banner of piracy, have made the army the victim of their own predatory-adventurist strategy. The Nazi troops are suffering defeat, and will be routed. We are seeing the brilliant triumph of Stalin's wise strategy. But the triumph has come of itself. It has been forged in violent, bloody battles, in the whirlwind of the Red Army's offensive.

It should be borne in mind that the adventurist nature of German strategy might not have revealed itself for long, and might not have turned against its authors, had not the gross miscalculations of the conceited fascist militarists been exposed by the bayonets of the triumphantly defending and now victoriously attacking Red Army.

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The Red Army in Soviet Literature

By Peter Skosyrev

The warm love of the Soviet people for their Red Army stems directly from the boundless love they have for their country. For this reason the works of Soviet writers dealing with the Red Army do not stand apart from Soviet literature on peacetime themes.

In the early days of the development of Soviet literature, one of the books enjoying the widest popu-

larity was Dmitri Furmanov's *Chapayev*, which may be classed as a biographical novel. The memory of the glorious deeds of its principal hero, the remarkable military commander Chapayev, is still alive among Soviet people. Although definitely a war novel, *Chapayev* is at the same time one of the finest books of the early period of Soviet literature dealing with Soviet man in general. In this book the reader finds the most vivid and consummate expression of



War correspondent A. Krivitsky, who recently spent a month behind the German lines, shows a number of guerrilla documents to Major General S. S. Chernyugov, Commander of the Eighth Guards Division. Krivitsky has written a number of interesting articles on the activities of the People's Avengers in the enemy rear. He has been awarded the "Guerrilla Medal"

the finest traits and characteristics of the Soviet people—courage, lofty patriotism, humanity, readiness to give their lives for the country's happiness, and a passionate desire to increase their knowledge.

Many books on war themes have appeared in all languages of the USSR during its 26 years of existence. Almost simultaneously with *Chapayev* appeared the novel *Break-Up*, by Alexander Fadeyev, in which the inseparable ties uniting the Red Army with the people are brought out with great vividness and artistry: the Red Army is an armed section of the Soviet people, fighting for the achievement of its lofty ideals—and the main ideal of the Soviet people is peaceful, creative and constructive labor based on the principles of justice and freedom.

The great Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky regarded the formation of the mighty Red Army to defend the free labor of the Soviet people as one of the highest achievements of the Soviet Government.

In Mikhail Sholokhov's famous novel, *The Quiet Don*, the principal character, Grigori Melekhov, travels a long and tortuous road of struggle for the affirmation of his ideals; in the end he realizes that the Soviet people and its Red Army are invincible precisely because they are parts of an integrated whole.

It is in the ranks of the Red Army that the moral stamina of the favorite hero of Soviet youth, Pavel Korchagin, hero of Nikolai Ostrovsky's *How the Steel Was Tempered*, finds full expression.

The blind Turkmenian poet, Durdi Klych, wrote in one of his early poems that the words "Red Army" and "the people's happiness" have the same sound. The founder of Kirghiz literature, Toktogul, who died in 1933, called upon the Kirghizian people to place their hope and faith in the armed Soviet people—because the cause of the Soviet people is a righteous cause.

Red Army themes hold a place of honor in the works of the most prominent Soviet writers. The 98-year-old Kazakh folk poet, Djambul, has written a long poem about the men of the Red Army. A classic poem by the Byelorussian Yanko Kupala deals with the struggle against Wilhelm's hordes. *Sniper*, by the young Azerbaijanian poet, Abdullah Farug, ends with the statement that for the Soviet soldier "it is easy to go to war for peace, for the Soviet warrior covets not an inch of anyone else's land." Semyon Sklyarenko, a Ukrainian writer, has published a novel on the life of the great Soviet Ukrainian commander, Nikolai Shchors.

The Patriotic War against the Hitlerite barbarians has still further emphasized the dependence of the happiness and freedom of the Soviet people on the fighting qualities of the Red Army. The war against Hitler is a national, sacred war. Even when working

far in the rear, Soviet people are at the front. Front and rear are one. Thus in books dealing with the Soviet rear—the front, the Red Army, frequently plays the main part.

The Soviet soldier, the Soviet officer, is primarily a Soviet man and patriot, blood and flesh of his people, strong in the consciousness that he is upholding all the citizens of his country.

Many noteworthy books on the Red Army have appeared since the war began. Toward the end of the first year, Vasil Grossman's *The People's Immortal* was published. This narrative deals with the hardest period for the Red Army during the Hitlerite offensive, when our soldiers relinquished Soviet territory to the enemy.

Sholokhov's new novel, *They Fought for the Country*, shows the everyday hardships of war and how Soviet soldiers overcome these hardships with heroics. Written in the language of the people, the work will undoubtedly be read for a long time to come by all who want to learn what has made the Red Army so strong.

Mention must also be made of the poem *Banner of the Brigade*, by the Byelorussian Arkadi Kulesh; *Funeral of a Friend*, by the Ukrainian poet Pavlo Tychina; Boris Gorbатов's tale *Alexei Kulikov*; *Tyorkin*, by the young Russian poet Alexander Tyorkin, and the wartime works of Alexei Surkov, Stepan Shchupachev, Konstantin Simonov and Leonid Pervomaisky. All of these books, popular among Soviet readers, and many others give a truthful, complete picture of the tremendous struggle of the Red Army against the Hitlerites, and reveal the splendid fighting and human qualities of Soviet soldiers.

In these various works we see the Red Army as it is, brave and selfless, devoted to its country and its Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Stalin.

Lone Guerrillas of the North

Since the first days of enemy occupation, the lone guerrilla fighters—mainly trappers—have been operating in the forests of Karelia and in some districts of the Leningrad, Kalinin and other Soviet regions. They remain outside the regular guerrilla detachments, but maintain regular contact with them and act as their scouts. They stalk and wipe out small groups of enemy officers and men and blow up enemy objectives.

These lone fighters provide themselves with food and ammunition at the enemy's expense. They keep supplies hidden in the forest. They also maintain a secret postal service; into certain designated "boxes" the farmers drop notes asking for help and warning of forthcoming round-ups.

THE FRUNZE MILITARY ACADEMY

By Lieutenant General Nikolai Verevkin-Rokhalsky

Lieutenant General Verevkin-Rokhalsky heads the V. Frunze Red Army Military Academy.

The 25th anniversary of the Frunze Academy, on September 8, was at the same time the jubilee of Soviet military science, of which the Academy has been the center since its foundation. It also coincided with the 111th anniversary of higher military education in Russia, the basis of which was laid on September 8, 1832, when the St. Petersburg Military Academy was opened.

The attention of the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Government, of Lenin and Stalin, was centered on the problem of building the Red Army. In particular, we had to set up a higher military school to train commanders. And in creating this school we had to make use of all that was best and most progressive in the officer and military-scientific personnel of the army.

On Lenin's initiative and at his express instructions, the Academy of the General Staff of the Workers and Peasants' Red Army was created. From the Tsarist military academy the new Academy took over a relatively small section of the personnel, part of the library, and—most important of all—the glorious traditions of Russian military science, the valuable heritage of our finest military thought.

During the Civil War our students had several times interrupted their studies to join forces with the Red Army, fighting the enemies of the motherland. At the same time their studies were based mainly on the curriculum of the old academy. Even so, many of them became highly skilled commanders who played a small part in the battles of those days.

The turning point in the history of the Academy was the glorious period when it was led by Mikhail Ilievich Frunze, whose name it has borne for the past 18 years. Under his guidance it became a great center for the training of leading commanding cadres, a laboratory for the military-scientific thought of the Red Army. It began to produce commanders of a new type, trained on the basis of the experience of the First World War and the Civil War.

A new phase in the history of the Academy opened with the industrialization of the country and the collectivization of agriculture. The Red Army was equipped with modern equipment, and this confronted it with many new tasks. Commanders of special types of arms graduated from the Academy—commanders of artillery, aircraft, motorized troops, com-

munications—as well as hundreds of ordinary troop commanders.

The events of 1938–39 necessitated important developments in our work. The Academy faced the task of turning out skilled army commanders on a larger scale than ever before. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, it was a completely mature, strong organism.



Guards Lieutenant General Y. G. Kreizer, Hero of the Soviet Union, Cavalier of the Order of Suvorov, Second Class, and of the Order of Kutuzov, First Class

Throughout its whole existence the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Government have constantly been concerned with perfecting the Academy's educational facilities. The old Russian academy worked for 69 years in cramped, inconvenient, makeshift buildings. Not until 1901 was a new building provided, planned for its purpose. In 1936 the Frunze Academy moved into a magnificent new ten-story building, specially

designed for the purpose of military education, possessing splendid lecture halls, classrooms and laboratories.

On December 7 Marshal Stalin congratulated the Academy on its 25th anniversary. We remember the visit he paid us in 1928, on the 10th anniversary of the Academy. Nine years earlier, in the summer of 1919, the Academy had the honor to receive Vladimir Ilyich Lenin within its walls, when he addressed a meeting of students.

300 Generals Among Ex-Students

For about a year the Academy was led by Frunze, one of Stalin's oldest collaborators. For several years its chief was Marshal Shaposhnikov. Among the older generation which has passed through the Academy we are proud to reckon a number of Marshals of the Soviet Union and most of the commanders of fronts and armies. It has given the front about 300 generals. Some of them have died in battle; many have won glory.

The Academy possesses specimens of every type of modern weapon which the commander must meet on

the battlefield. The historic speeches and Orders the Day of Comrade Stalin are for us an inexhaustible source of knowledge, and a guide to the solution of our task of training Red Army officers.

When the Nazis invaded the USSR it became necessary for us to speed-up our training program. We did so, but alongside the short-term training of officers, the Academy has maintained its normal course of training, in spite of difficult war conditions. It has given considerable depth to its scientific research and has laid the basis for a further advance towards mastery of the Stalinist military science.

The Frunze Academy gives the Red Army officers who are masters at leading troops, who are supremely loyal to the Soviet motherland, who have mastered modern technique, who are disciplined and cultured. It teaches its students the art of coordinating arms, of close pursuit of the enemy, of using reserves skilfully, of mastering enemy defenses, of cutting communications, of the encirclement and annihilation or capture of enemy manpower and equipment.

Together with the Red Army, the Academy has become the exponent of Lenin-Stalin military science.

A Kazakh Warrior Comes Home

By Arkady Eventov

Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, was impatient to see its hero. When news spread that the plane had landed, throngs of people lined the streets, bearing flowers and banners. "Welcome, hero of Kazakhstan!" "Warmest greetings to Malik Habidulin from the people of Kazakhstan!"—were some of the inscriptions on the fluttering banners.

* * *

Malik Habidulin was a post-graduate student at the Alma-Ata Pedagogical Institute when the war broke out. Engrossed in the study of ancient manuscripts and chronicles, he was preparing for a teacher's career. Putting aside his unfinished thesis, Malik Habidulin volunteered at once.

The young Kazakh's subsequent career is one of the bright pages in the history of the Guards Infantry Division commanded by General Panfilov, which covered itself with glory in the decisive battles at the approaches to Moscow. The men of Kazakhstan stood up to hordes of enemy tanks and stopped them at the gates of the Soviet Capital.

When his superior was killed, Malik Habidulin, then a junior officer, was forced to take over command. With scarcely any experience in fighting and

with a mere handful of men he held off strong enemy forces for an incredible time. When his platoon was finally encircled, Malik ordered an all-round defense. The Germans attacked repeatedly in force, but the time were forced to fall back in spite of their superior numbers. Then German tanks rolled into the position. Malik's men met them with hand grenades and gasoline bottles. After their successful defense the men broke through the enemy ring and rejoined their unit.

Since that time Malik's feats of heroism have been many. The men of his unit say, "German bullets are afraid of our Malik." The 27-year-old Major, who already wears three Orders and is a Hero of the Soviet Union, has always succeeded in finding a way out of the most hopeless situations.

On his furlough Malik spent three days in the village of Kokchetau, his birthplace, where his father lives and where all the villagers remember him as a child. When he left to rejoin his unit at the front, he repeated the oath he swore in the winter of 1941: "I swear to exterminate the German savages as long as my heart beats and blood runs in my veins; while I am able to hold a rifle I will fight for the happiness and welfare of my country and all liberty-loving peoples."

beyond the woods lie the
camps; beyond the
camps, a river; beyond
the river—the enemy



the commander of a cav-
ry formation explains
the plan of an operation
to his sub-officers



the trained horses of the
cavalry play their part in
war. Here one lies
perfectly still, serving as a
support for his master



SOVIET MARINES

By Captain Y. Zelvensky

The men of the Soviet Navy have been in the front ranks of their country's defenders since the first days of Soviet power. In 1918 they fought the Germans at Narva and Pskov, drove them from the Soviet Ukraine and fought with incredible bravery on all sectors during the Civil War.

When they founded the Red Army 26 years ago, Lenin and Stalin, organizers of the Soviet State, assigned various seamen's detachments to the newly formed armed forces of the young Soviet Republic. These detachments then served as the backbone of

launched the construction of a great fleet. But the sailors were trained not only for battles at sea but also on land. Soviet sailors participated in the war against the Finns; ski detachments of the Baltic Fleet helped the Red Army break through the Mannerheim Line and crush the Finnish invaders. The first marine forces were then organized.

Then came the day of supreme trial. The Soviet people arose in the great Patriotic War against the German invaders, and once again the forces of the Red Navy appeared on the battlefields and proved themselves worthy of the tradition of the Russian marines.

Side by side with Red Army troops the sailors fought the Germans in the first battles. Men of the Baltic Fleet defended Libau and Tallin; Black Sea sailors fought for Ismail and Odessa; in the Far North the marines supplemented Red Army forces which blocked the enemy's path to Murmansk.

A large share of the defense of such heroic cities as Odessa, Sevastopol, Leningrad and Stalingrad fell to the sailors of the Soviet Fleet. These battles were commemorated by special medals. Three regiments of marines and six volunteer detachments of the Fleet defended the fine old Black Sea port of Odessa. The city will ultimately heal its wounds, but never will the people forget the marines commanded by Colonel Osipov, whose very name struck terror in the hearts of the Germans and their Rumanian flunkies.

Marshal Joseph Stalin highly appraised the fighting actions of the heroic defenders of Sevastopol and in a special telegram commended their selfless struggle and heroic example for the entire Red Army and the Soviet people. Unprecedented were many of the exploits of marines and sailors of Sevastopol. On one occasion five seamen, belted with hand-grenades, flung themselves beneath the enemy's tanks and stopped the steel monsters with their own bodies.

Ten men of the Black Sea Fleet kept the enemy at bay in blockhouse No. 11. They sacrificed their lives one by one, but yielded not one step. That was the spirit of the Russian sailor, unconquerable even in death.

During the grim autumn days of 1941, when the Germans menaced Moscow, several marine infantry detachments were rushed to support the Red Army defending the Capital.

Red Navy men also participated in the historic Battle of Stalingrad. Individual units from the Fleet fighting in the ranks of the Army displayed the same



Range-finder Nikolai Steshchenko, one of the best artillerymen on his ship, was awarded the "For the Defense of Sevastopol" Medal

the army formations and set an example of iron tenacity, revolutionary courage and sailors' daring.

Years passed. The Soviet State grew strong and

valor characteristic of the Fleet. Their bayonet slaughters were irresistible. German soldier Kurt Amar, taken prisoner, declared: "When we saw these devils in their striped jerseys, we felt very bad. The soldiers are afraid to tangle with Russian heroes."

Trained in the battles of the Patriotic War, the marines have learned the tactics of fighting on land and are grown skilled in maneuver. Austerely maintaining the traditions of the Fleet, they have learned the Red Army's methods and acquired its ability to strike home with deadly certainty. This has been particularly notable during the offensive; detachments of the Fleet are fighting in the ranks of the front land forces and with them scoring victory after victory.

Battalions and brigades of Soviet marines have earned particular distinction for their landing operations. Going ashore from small boats the marines broke into Taganrog, Mariupol, Osipenko, Novorossiysk and Anapa. They were the first to set foot on liberated soil in the Crimea.

Now that the Red Army has routed the Germans from Leningrad and is driving the enemy from that

glorious city, its advancing ranks number the valorous marines from the Red Banner Baltic Fleet, who contributed no small share to the defense of Russia's northern capital.

For many months the Germans hammered at the gates of the ancient Russian fortress of Oreshek, where the Neva River joins Lake Ladoga. Its garrison was made up of Baltic sailors, who staunchly repelled the rabid onslaughts of the enemy. The Soviet banner flew bravely over the fortress throughout the struggle. The Germans, not more than 200 meters distant, hammered at the flag with thousands of shells and mines. On six occasions they downed it, but each time heroic sailor Sklyar, assigned to guard the banner, hoisted it again over the fortress, a symbol of the invincible courage of the Baltic sailors. When the enemy was hurled from Oreshek, the flag became a sacred relic of the Baltic Fleet. It is thus Soviet marines defend their banners, thus they fight for their country's honor.

Soviet marines will win fresh glory in the battles of the near future. Their victorious banners will lead them to Sevastopol, Odessa, Ismail, Tallin, Riga and Libau. The marines will carry their banners to the borders of our fatherland.

Maxim Gorky's Widow Honored

For outstanding public, cultural and educational activities, and on the occasion of her 70th birthday, Maria Andreyeva, Director of the Moscow House of Artists, has been awarded the Order of Red Banner of Labor by the Soviet Government.

Andreyeva's name is associated with many outstanding representatives of Russian art, literature and science. The daughter of a St. Petersburg actor, she began to earn her own living at the age of 14; at 17 she went on the stage, and has devoted more than 30 years of her life to the theater.

Together with Konstantin Stanislavsky and Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko, she took an active part in the creation of the Moscow Art Theater, where she subsequently portrayed the heroines of Shakespeare, Ibsen, Hauptmann and Ostrovsky.

As the wife of the celebrated Russian writer, Maxim Gorky, Andreyeva constantly helped him in his varied public and literary work. Since 1931, she has been Director of the Moscow House of Scientists and has been planning the programs for the numerous activities of the 3,000 professors, academicians and scientists who are members of this club.

Advances in Georgian Agriculture

The collective farm system is the main source of the achievements of Georgian villages in wartime. Only this system has made it possible for agriculture to meet the demands laid upon it by the war.

Last year Georgian collective farms gave the Government 18,000 tons of grain above the 1940 deliveries, and 28,800 tons of vegetables—5,000 tons more than in 1940.

In the years of war the collective and State farms of Georgia have achieved new successes in the field of agro-technics, raising the yield of grain by 1.5 centners per hectare. They have also increased the area under cultivation by 80,000 hectares, utilizing former wastelands. Cattle-breeding, the most important branch of Georgian agriculture, has also advanced considerably. All Government quotas for the delivery of dairy and meat products have been fulfilled on time.

The achievements of Georgian agriculture are in a great measure due to the fine work of the many machine-tractor stations of the Republic. The excellent showing made by its agriculture now enables Georgia to render aid to collective farms in districts liberated from the German occupation, as for example the Stavropol and Krasnodar Regions.

chine and had defeated the main purpose of this machine—the destruction of fronts.

By the spring of 1942 the front stood at Leningrad, for the Germans had failed to take that great city. It ran along by Rzhev, for the Germans had been driven back from Moscow. It ran west of Rostov, for the Germans had been expelled from that city. The three most important strategic objectives of the initial German offensive had been retained by the Red Army, which then proceeded to inflict the first powerful blows on the Germans.

The front lay in the interior of Russia, and its supply involved tremendous difficulties for the German command, sucking dry an already weakened Germany. The Nazi hordes found themselves tied up.

In the summer of 1942 the Hitler clique once again plunged up to the ears in its adventurist strategy, which had collapsed in 1941. Once again it reposed all its hopes in its war machine, giving it the task of crushing the Soviet front in a single campaign. The starting point was less favorable for the enemy than in 1941: Germany's forces had been reduced, and the task of crushing the vast front was tremendous. It was first necessary to carry out the complicated operation of breaking through.

Taking advantage of the absence of a second front in Europe, the German command concentrated tremendous forces against us in the southwestern direction, hoping after the break-through to emerge deep in the rear and from that point to develop operations against the central part of the Soviet front.

The German plan took account neither of the time required for operations of such scope, nor of the spaces which would have to be covered, nor of the forces of the Red Army, nor of the Soviet reserves. Such is the habit of all foolhardy adventurists: they pile adventure on adventure, always trying to make good their previous failures by fresh adventures.

After some temporary tactical successes the result was the same as in 1941. In September, 1942 the main Hitlerite grouping had been halted at Stalingrad. The Nazis could not believe their eyes: only some hundred yards from the Volga, yet the German war machine is incapable of smashing the defenders of the ruined city! Impossible!

And Berlin sends order after order to take Stalingrad. Hundreds of planes and tanks, and new divisions mount innumerable attacks. Stalingrad is almost taken. But this "almost" is fatal for the attackers.

New fronts stretched from the invincible bulwark of Soviet defense on the Volga: to the northwest in the direction of Voronezh; to the south in the direction of the North Caucasus. The Soviet front stood invincible, barring the road to the north, the east, the south. Once more Nazi strategy had come up against

the wall of iron built by the heroism of the Red Army, its powerful equipment, its fortifications, its reserves.

Feverishly the Germans fortified their side of the front. Winter was drawing near and the Nazi generals wanted to safeguard themselves against "accidents" like those of the previous year. They felt themselves safe behind the powerful defense lines of blockhouses, minefields, strongpoints. If the Soviet defense could prove strong enough to halt the German war machine, then the German defense, the latest word in engineering technique, would beat off the Soviet offensive.

So thought the German generals. Once again they were wrong.

II

Underestimation of the Opponent

The Germans thought they had provided against everything. Yet, as we have seen, they most seriously miscalculated the character and role of fronts, as well as the method of conducting operations where fronts exist. We are now in a position to analyze this mistake of the German command.

The whole organization of the German army was adapted for the conduct of operations to crush enemy fronts. The Red Army had to contend with a powerful enemy who was thoroughly prepared for war.

Yet there was an organic defect in the whole of the fascist system of waging war, a caries eating away at every link of the German war machine. This defect arose from the adventurist nature of German policy and strategy.

German fascism had to gain swift victories. In particular, German-fascist strategy required the lightning smashing of fronts. The organic defect arising from these adventurist aims permeated all the decisions of the German command. It manifested itself in the whole structure of the German army, from top to bottom.

The "Invincibility" Myth

The Germans admitted the possibility that fronts might be established. Indeed, they even considered their establishment inevitable, as modern armies immediately spread out widely and protect themselves with fortifications. But they excluded the possibility that these fronts might be stabilized for any more or less prolonged periods. On what did they base this conviction? On the German war machine's supposed ability to break through swiftly and destroy any front, however strong; on the supposition that there was no defense capable of withstanding the onslaught of the tremendous masses of German tanks, aircraft and infantry.

This was an adventurist distortion of military theory. Now, from the experience of war on the



JANUARY, 1943—Breaking the German grip on Leningrad. Red Army men in white camouflage suits drive the Nazis from a village stronghold

et front, it is clear even to the uninitiated in military science that it is quite possible for a situation to arise in which fronts become stabilized both on individual sectors and even over the whole theater of war. German fascism rejected this possibility.

The experience of all wars shows that sooner or later all offensive means are countered by adequate means of defense. Stalingrad was an unforgettable demonstration of the power of modern defense. The re-equipping of the Red Army with anti-tank rifles, the remarkable reorganization of Soviet artillery in combat the tanks, radically altered the situation which had existed at the beginning of the war, before German armor had met such organized resistance.

The Germans based all their operative plans on the position that they would *always* be able to insure the success of operations. That, too, was adventurism.

With present-day mobile forces, it is of course possible to operate at high speed. But that is not to say that there can arise no delays which reduce the tempo of military actions, and indeed bring them to a standstill for quite considerable periods.

In its military saunterings through Western Europe the highly mobile German mechanized army became accustomed to meeting no serious obstacle. On the Soviet front, even when the balance leaned in favor of the Germans, thousands of serious obstacles sprang up in the path of their advance, obstacles created by the Red Army.

War and Paper War

"Friction," says Clausewitz, "is all that, generally speaking, distinguishes real war from paper war." On paper, the German command planned to enter Leningrad on July 25; in fact the Germans did not approach the city until a month after that date, where they were stuck until their complete rout.

Modern war operations may be slowed up for innumerable reasons: the resistance of the enemy, his

counter-blows, water barriers, supply difficulties. The "lightning" tempo of operations, which the German command considered normal, was an adventurist conception, strategically and tactically speaking, because it completely excluded the possibility of prolonged delays, or even halts by the attacking troops. When facts made nonsense of this conception, the German command was forced hastily to alter its plans; this, however, could no longer save it from serious defeat.

Nazi war plans are unreal, for they are based on the insane aspirations of German predatory imperialism to subdue the whole world. These plans do not allow for all the complicated factors of modern warfare. In particular, they do not allow for the strength of defensive means capable of holding up and halting an offensive. I cannot help recalling Napoleon's words, from his diary written on St. Helena:

"The first essential for a commander-in-chief is to have a cool head, one which receives correct impressions, which never flares up, does not allow itself to be blinded, to become intoxicated by good or bad news. . . . There are people who by their physical or moral constitution make a scene out of everything . . . nature never intended them for the command of armies or the direction of big military operations."

Reasonable risk has to be taken in war, but it must be combined with careful calculation, with a sober assessment of the situation. A mistake in calculation is dangerous enough in tactical operations. But an organic mistake in strategy spells defeat. The boldest generals—Suvorov, Napoleon—were always extremely careful to safeguard their operations against failure or unforeseen delay. Surprises are inevitable, but where proper safeguards exist, surprises should not lead to the collapse of one's plans.

"None so blind as he who will not see." The Nazi command, having created a powerful war machine and planned a lightning war, thought it had provided against every eventuality, that no defense would be

capable of withstanding its troops. Complete contempt for the enemy is characteristic of the German doctrine of war.

It never entered the heads of the fascist adventurers, steeped in their arrogance and self-confidence, that the Red Army, being a new army and possessing the historical advantages inherent in the Soviet order, would solve the most complicated problems of modern warfare more successfully than the vaunted German troops. That is why the present German retreat before the Red Army is not only a purely military defeat, but also a most powerful moral defeat—and these defeats are the most disastrous.

During the period of warfare on the fields of Western Europe the miscalculations of the German command and the shortcomings in its strategy could be observed only by the most attentive and experienced eye. The easy victories and the rolling of the fascist drums overwhelmed those voices which pointed out that the German war machine was not quite so omnipotent.

The defeats in German-fascist strategy began to appear clearly only when the German army had clashed with a powerful opponent, the Red Army. And the reason we are now celebrating our great victories lies in the superiority of Soviet weapons, in the superiority of the wise Stalinist strategy.

III

Underestimation of Active Defense

The Germans, as we have seen, overestimated the strength of their offensive. But German strategy did not collapse of itself, but as a result of the difficult struggle in which the Red Army earned immortal glory. The task of withstanding the onslaught of the powerfully armed German army was a question of living practice, calling for the mobilization of all the forces of our land to fight the mortal enemy. But it was also a question of profound military theory.

The possibility of halting the German offensive implied the formation of a defensive front, continuous and stable, for a more or less considerable period. This task was solved in a way unforeseen by the German command. Briefly, it was solved by active defense.

This active defense was in fact a most complicated system of measures. The heroic struggle of all arms was combined with the most intensive effort on the Soviet home front. In its strategic defense the Red Army took full advantage of the great mobility and maneuverability of modern mobile forces, combined with the defensive fire power of field fortifications.

The firm line of Soviet defense eventually evolved

from an exceptionally swift and complicated struggle of maneuver, in which the Red Army constantly inflicted counter-blows on the enemy and gained a number of brilliant victories.

The Germans Remember Maginot

The strategic defense of the Red Army was successful only because it was highly active, imbued with the offensive spirit. Passive defense, relying blindly on the strength of defensive fortifications, is doomed to failure. The irony of fate! The German generals who entered our land in full "blitzkrieg" armor are having to recall that in 1940 the Maginot Line did not save France from defeat.

The unparalleled defeat of the Germans at Stalin-grad was the beginning of a number of consecutive offensive operations by the Red Army. Today an entirely new and original solution has been given to the problem of smashing the front. The strategic plan of the Supreme Command of the Red Army is the exact reverse of the adventurist strategic plan of the German command. In carrying out the smashing of the front strict account is taken of the true circumstances; it is done systematically, in a series of consecutive operations.

All the usual defense methods of the German command have proved worthless. The chief means of opposing break-throughs was considered to be rapid maneuvering with reserves in the rear of the front. But this method is parried by the subsequent operations of the Red Army, which extend the breaking of the front to adjacent sectors, with the simultaneous development of the offensive in depth.

The German command is faced with ever new strategical threats. Soviet offensive operations, which break open the front over an ever greater area, have disorientated the German command and bankrupted its whole system of maneuvering with reserves.

Triumphant Defense, Victorious Attack

The ill-starred rulers of Hitlerite Germany, who unfurled the black banner of piracy, have made their army the victim of their own predatory-adventurist strategy. The Nazi troops are suffering defeat, and will be routed. We are seeing the brilliant triumph of Stalin's wise strategy. But the triumph has not come of itself. It has been forged in violent, bloody battles, in the whirlwind of the Red Army's offensive.

It should be borne in mind that the adventurist nature of German strategy might not have revealed itself for long, and might not have turned against its authors, had not the gross miscalculations of the conceited fascist militarists been exposed by the bayonets of the triumphantly defending and now victoriously attacking Red Army.

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The Red Army in Soviet Literature

By Peter Skosyrev

The warm love of the Soviet people for their Red Army stems directly from the boundless love they feel for their country. For this reason the works of Soviet writers dealing with the Red Army do not stand apart from Soviet literature on peacetime themes.

In the early days of the development of Soviet literature, one of the books enjoying the widest popu-

larity was Dmitri Furmanov's *Chapayev*, which may be classed as a biographical novel. The memory of the glorious deeds of its principal hero, the remarkable military commander Chapayev, is still alive among Soviet people. Although definitely a war novel, *Chapayev* is at the same time one of the finest books of the early period of Soviet literature dealing with Soviet man in general. In this book the reader finds the most vivid and consummate expression of



War correspondent A. Krivitsky, who recently spent a month behind the German lines, shows a number of guerrilla documents to Major General S. S. Chernyugov, Commander of the Eighth Guards Division. Krivitsky has written a number of interesting articles on the activities of the People's Avengers in the enemy rear. He has been awarded the "Guerrilla Medal"

the finest traits and characteristics of the Soviet people—courage, lofty patriotism, humanity, readiness to give their lives for the country's happiness, and a passionate desire to increase their knowledge.

Many books on war themes have appeared in all languages of the USSR during its 26 years of existence. Almost simultaneously with *Chapayev* appeared the novel *Break-Up*, by Alexander Fadeyev, in which the inseparable ties uniting the Red Army with the people are brought out with great vividness and artistry: the Red Army is an armed section of the Soviet people, fighting for the achievement of its lofty ideals—and the main ideal of the Soviet people is peaceful, creative and constructive labor based on the principles of justice and freedom.

The great Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky regarded the formation of the mighty Red Army to defend the free labor of the Soviet people as one of the highest achievements of the Soviet Government.

In Mikhail Sholokhov's famous novel, *The Quiet Don*, the principal character, Grigori Melekhov, travels a long and tortuous road of struggle for the affirmation of his ideals; in the end he realizes that the Soviet people and its Red Army are invincible precisely because they are parts of an integrated whole.

It is in the ranks of the Red Army that the moral stamina of the favorite hero of Soviet youth, Pavel Korchagin, hero of Nikolai Ostrovsky's *How the Steel Was Tempered*, finds full expression.

The blind Turkmenian poet, Durdi Klych, wrote in one of his early poems that the words "Red Army" and "the people's happiness" have the same sound. The founder of Kirghiz literature, Toktogul, who died in 1933, called upon the Kirghizian people to place their hope and faith in the armed Soviet people—because the cause of the Soviet people is a righteous cause.

Red Army themes hold a place of honor in the works of the most prominent Soviet writers. The 98-year-old Kazakh folk poet, Djambul, has written a long poem about the men of the Red Army. A classic poem by the Byelorussian Yanko Kupala deals with the struggle against Wilhelm's hordes. *Sniper*, by the young Azerbaijanian poet, Abdullah Farug, ends with the statement that for the Soviet soldier "it is easy to go to war for peace, for the Soviet warrior covets not an inch of anyone else's land." Semyon Sklyarenko, a Ukrainian writer, has published a novel on the life of the great Soviet Ukrainian commander, Nikolai Shchors.

The Patriotic War against the Hitlerite barbarians has still further emphasized the dependence of the happiness and freedom of the Soviet people on the fighting qualities of the Red Army. The war against Hitler is a national, sacred war. Even when working

far in the rear, Soviet people are at the front. Front and rear are one. Thus in books dealing with life in the Soviet rear—the front, the Red Army, frequently plays the main part.

The Soviet soldier, the Soviet officer, is primarily a Soviet man and patriot, blood and flesh of his people, strong in the consciousness that he is upheld by all the citizens of his country.

Many noteworthy books on the Red Army have appeared since the war began. Toward the end of the first year, Vassili Grossman's *The People Are Immortal* was published. This narrative deals with the hardest period for the Red Army during the Hitlerite offensive, when our soldiers relinquished Soviet territory to the enemy.

Sholokhov's new novel, *They Fought for Their Country*, shows the everyday hardships of war, and how Soviet soldiers overcome these hardships without heroics. Written in the language of the people, this work will undoubtedly be read for a long time to come by all who want to learn what has made the Red Army so strong.

Mention must also be made of the poem *Banner of the Brigade*, by the Byelorussian Arkadi Kuleshov; *Funeral of a Friend*, by the Ukrainian poet Pavlo Tychina; Boris Gorbatov's tale *Alexei Kulikov*; *Vassili Tyorkin*, by the young Russian poet Alexander Tvardovsky, and the wartime works of Alexei Surkov, Stepan Shchipachev, Konstantin Simonov and Leonid Pervomaisky. All of these books, popular among Soviet readers, and many others give a truthful and complete picture of the tremendous struggle of the Red Army against the Hitlerites, and reveal the splendid fighting and human qualities of Soviet soldiers.

In these various works we see the Red Army as it is, brave and selfless, devoted to its country and the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Stalin.

Lone Guerrillas of the North

Since the first days of enemy occupation, many lone guerrilla fighters—mainly trappers—have been operating in the forests of Karelia and in some districts of the Leningrad, Kalinin and other Soviet regions. They remain outside the regular guerrilla detachments, but maintain regular contact with them and act as their scouts. They stalk and wipe out small groups of enemy officers and men and blow up enemy objectives.

These lone fighters provide themselves with arms, food and ammunition at the enemy's expense, and keep supplies hidden in the forest. They also have a secret postal service; into certain designated "letter boxes" the farmers drop notes asking for help or warning of forthcoming round-ups.

THE FRUNZE MILITARY ACADEMY

By Lieutenant General Nikolai Verevkin-Rokhalsky

Lieutenant General Verevkin-Rokhalsky heads the M. V. Frunze Red Army Military Academy.

The 25th anniversary of the Frunze Academy, on December 8, was at the same time the jubilee of Soviet military science, of which the Academy has been the center since its foundation. It also coincided with the 111th anniversary of higher military education in Russia, the basis of which was laid on December 8, 1832, when the St. Petersburg Military Academy was opened.

The attention of the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Government, of Lenin and Stalin, was centered on the problem of building the Red Army. In particular, we had to set up a higher military school to train commanders. And in creating this school we had to make use of all that was best and most progressive in the officer and military-scientific personnel of the old army.

On Lenin's initiative and at his express instructions, the Academy of the General Staff of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army was created. From the old Tsarist military academy the new Academy took over a relatively small section of the personnel, part of the library, and—most important of all—the glorious traditions of Russian military science, the valuable heritage of our finest military thought.

During the Civil War our students had several times to interrupt their studies to join forces with the Red Army, fighting the enemies of the motherland. At that time their studies were based mainly on the curriculum of the old academy. Even so, many of them became highly skilled commanders who played no small part in the battles of those days.

The turning point in the history of the Academy was the glorious period when it was led by Mikhail Vasilievich Frunze, whose name it has borne for the past 18 years. Under his guidance it became a great center for the training of leading commanding cadres, and a laboratory for the military-scientific thought of the Red Army. It began to produce commanders of a new type, trained on the basis of the experience of the First World War and the Civil War.

A new phase in the history of the Academy opened with the industrialization of the country and the collectivization of agriculture. The Red Army was armed with modern equipment, and this confronted us with many new tasks. Commanders of special types of arms graduated from the Academy—commanders of artillery, aircraft, motorized troops, com-

munications—as well as hundreds of ordinary troop commanders.

The events of 1938–39 necessitated important developments in our work. The Academy faced the task of turning out skilled army commanders on a larger scale than ever before. When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, it was a completely mature, strong organism.



Guards Lieutenant General Y. G. Kreizer, Hero of the Soviet Union, Cavalier of the Order of Suvorov, Second Class, and of the Order of Kutuzov, First Class

Throughout its whole existence the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Government have constantly been concerned with perfecting the Academy's educational facilities. The old Russian academy worked for 69 years in cramped, inconvenient, makeshift buildings. Not until 1901 was a new building provided, planned for its purpose. In 1936 the Frunze Academy moved into a magnificent new ten-story building, specially

designed for the purpose of military education, possessing splendid lecture halls, classrooms and laboratories.

On December 7 Marshal Stalin congratulated the Academy on its 25th anniversary. We remember the visit he paid us in 1928, on the 10th anniversary of the Academy. Nine years earlier, in the summer of 1919, the Academy had the honor to receive Vladimir Ilyich Lenin within its walls, when he addressed a meeting of students.

300 Generals Among Ex-Students

For about a year the Academy was led by Frunze, one of Stalin's oldest collaborators. For several years its chief was Marshal Shaposhnikov. Among the older generation which has passed through the Academy we are proud to reckon a number of Marshals of the Soviet Union and most of the commanders of fronts and armies. It has given the front about 300 generals. Some of them have died in battle; many have won glory.

The Academy possesses specimens of every type of modern weapon which the commander must meet on

the battlefield. The historic speeches and Orders of the Day of Comrade Stalin are for us an inexhaustible source of knowledge, and a guide to the solution of our task of training Red Army officers.

When the Nazis invaded the USSR it became necessary for us to speed-up our training program. We did so, but alongside the short-term training of officers, the Academy has maintained its normal course of training, in spite of difficult war conditions. This has given considerable depth to its scientific research, and has laid the basis for a further advance toward mastery of the Stalinist military science.

The Frunze Academy gives the Red Army officers who are masters at leading troops, who are supremely loyal to the Soviet motherland, who have mastered modern technique, who are disciplined and cultured. It teaches its students the art of coordinating all arms, of close pursuit of the enemy, of using reserves skilfully, of mastering enemy defenses, of cutting communications, of the encirclement and annihilation or capture of enemy manpower and equipment.

Together with the Red Army, the Academy has become the exponent of Lenin-Stalin military science.

A Kazakh Warrior Comes Home

By Arkady Eventov

Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, was impatient to see its hero. When news spread that the plane had landed, throngs of people lined the streets, bearing flowers and banners. "Welcome, hero of Kazakhstan!" "Warmest greetings to Malik Habidulin from the people of Kazakhstan!"—were some of the inscriptions on the fluttering banners.

* * *

Malik Habidulin was a post-graduate student at the Alma-Ata Pedagogical Institute when the war broke out. Engrossed in the study of ancient manuscripts and chronicles, he was preparing for a teacher's career. Putting aside his unfinished thesis, Malik Habidulin volunteered at once.

The young Kazakh's subsequent career is one of the bright pages in the history of the Guards Infantry Division commanded by General Panfilov, which covered itself with glory in the decisive battles at the approaches to Moscow. The men of Kazakhstan stood up to hordes of enemy tanks and stopped them at the gates of the Soviet Capital.

When his superior was killed, Malik Habidulin, then a junior officer, was forced to take over command. With scarcely any experience in fighting and

with a mere handful of men he held off strong enemy forces for an incredible time. When his platoon was finally encircled, Malik ordered an all-round defense. The Germans attacked repeatedly in force, but each time were forced to fall back in spite of their superior numbers. Then German tanks rolled into action. Malik's men met them with hand grenades and gasoline bottles. After their successful defense, the men broke through the enemy ring and rejoined their unit.

Since that time Malik's feats of heroism have been many. The men of his unit say, "German bullets are afraid of our Malik." The 27-year-old Major, who already wears three Orders and is a Hero of the Soviet Union, has always succeeded in finding a way out of the most hopeless situations.

On his furlough Malik spent three days in the aul (village) of Kokchetau, his birthplace, where his father lives and where all the villagers remember him as a child. When he left to rejoin his unit at the front, he repeated the oath he swore in the grim winter of 1941: "I swear to exterminate the Nazi savages as long as my heart beats and blood runs in my veins; while I am able to hold a rifle I will fight for the happiness and welfare of my country and of all liberty-loving peoples."

Beyond the woods lie the swamps; beyond the swamps, a river; beyond the river—the enemy



The commander of a cavalry formation explains the plan of an operation to his sub-officers



The trained horses of the cavalry play their part in the war. Here one lies perfectly still, serving as a gun support for his master



SOVIET MARINES

By Captain Y. Zelvensky

The men of the Soviet Navy have been in the front ranks of their country's defenders since the first days of Soviet power. In 1918 they fought the Germans at Narva and Pskov, drove them from the Soviet Ukraine and fought with incredible bravery on all sectors during the Civil War.

When they founded the Red Army 26 years ago, Lenin and Stalin, organizers of the Soviet State, assigned various seamen's detachments to the newly formed armed forces of the young Soviet Republic. These detachments then served as the backbone of

launched the construction of a great fleet. But the sailors were trained not only for battles at sea but also on land. Soviet sailors participated in the war against the Finns; ski detachments of the Baltic Fleet helped the Red Army break through the Mannerheim Line and crush the Finnish invaders. The first marine forces were then organized.

Then came the day of supreme trial. The Soviet people arose in the great Patriotic War against the German invaders, and once again the forces of the Red Navy appeared on the battlefields and proved themselves worthy of the tradition of the Russian marines.

Side by side with Red Army troops the sailors fought the Germans in the first battles. Men of the Baltic Fleet defended Libau and Tallin; Black Sea sailors fought for Ismail and Odessa; in the Far North the marines supplemented Red Army forces which blocked the enemy's path to Murmansk.

A large share of the defense of such heroic cities as Odessa, Sevastopol, Leningrad and Stalingrad fell to the sailors of the Soviet Fleet. These battles were commemorated by special medals. Three regiments of marines and six volunteer detachments of the Fleet defended the fine old Black Sea port of Odessa. The city will ultimately heal its wounds, but never will its people forget the marines commanded by Colonel Osipov, whose very name struck terror in the hearts of the Germans and their Rumanian flunkies.

Marshal Joseph Stalin highly appraised the fighting actions of the heroic defenders of Sevastopol and in a special telegram commended their selfless struggle and heroic example for the entire Red Army and the Soviet people. Unprecedented were many of the exploits of marines and sailors of Sevastopol. On one occasion five seamen, belted with hand-grenades, flung themselves beneath the enemy's tanks and stopped the steel monsters with their own bodies.

Ten men of the Black Sea Fleet kept the enemy at bay in blockhouse No. 11. They sacrificed their lives one by one, but yielded not one step. Theirs was the spirit of the Russian sailor, unconquerable even in death.

During the grim autumn days of 1941, when the Germans menaced Moscow, several marine infantry detachments were rushed to support the Red Army defending the Capital.

Red Navy men also participated in the historic Battle of Stalingrad. Individual units from the Fleet fighting in the ranks of the Army displayed the self-



Range-finder Nikolai Steshchenko, one of the best artillerymen on his ship, was awarded the "For the Defense of Sevastopol" Medal

the army formations and set an example of iron tenacity, revolutionary courage and sailors' daring.

Years passed. The Soviet State grew strong and

less valor characteristic of the Fleet. Their bayonet onslaughts were irresistible. German soldier Kurt Weimar, taken prisoner, declared: "When we saw those devils in their striped jerseys, we felt very bad. Our soldiers are afraid to tangle with Russian sailors."

Steeled in the battles of the Patriotic War, the marines have learned the tactics of fighting on land and have grown skilled in maneuver. Austerely maintaining the traditions of the Fleet, they have learned the Red Army's methods and acquired its ability to strike home with deadly certainty. This has been particularly notable during the offensive; detachments of the Fleet are fighting in the ranks of the Soviet land forces and with them scoring victory after victory.

Battalions and brigades of Soviet marines have earned particular distinction for their landing operations. Going ashore from small boats the marines broke into Taganrog, Mariupol, Osipenko, Novorossisk and Anapa. They were the first to set foot on liberated soil in the Crimea.

Now that the Red Army has routed the Germans at Leningrad and is driving the enemy from that

glorious city, its advancing ranks number the valorous marines from the Red Banner Baltic Fleet, who contributed no small share to the defense of Russia's northern capital.

For many months the Germans hammered at the gates of the ancient Russian fortress of Oreshek, where the Neva River joins Lake Ladoga. Its garrison was made up of Baltic sailors, who staunchly repelled the rabid onslaughts of the enemy. The Soviet banner flew bravely over the fortress throughout the struggle. The Germans, not more than 200 meters distant, hammered at the flag with thousands of shells and mines. On six occasions they downed it, but each time heroic sailor Sklyar, assigned to guard the banner, hoisted it again over the fortress, a symbol of the invincible courage of the Baltic sailors. When the enemy was hurled from Oreshek, the flag became a sacred relic of the Baltic Fleet. It is thus Soviet marines defend their banners, thus they fight for their country's honor.

Soviet marines will win fresh glory in the battles of the near future. Their victorious banners will lead them to Sevastopol, Odessa, Ismail, Tallin, Riga and Libau. The marines will carry their banners to the borders of our fatherland.

Maxim Gorky's Widow Honored

For outstanding public, cultural and educational activities, and on the occasion of her 70th birthday, Maria Andreyeva, Director of the Moscow House of Scientists, has been awarded the Order of Red Banner of Labor by the Soviet Government.

Andreyeva's name is associated with many outstanding representatives of Russian art, literature and science. The daughter of a St. Petersburg actor, she began to earn her own living at the age of 14; at 17 she went on the stage, and has devoted more than 30 years of her life to the theater.

Together with Konstantin Stanislavsky and Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko, she took an active part in the creation of the Moscow Art Theater, where she subsequently portrayed the heroines of Shakespeare, Ibsen, Hauptmann and Ostrovsky.

As the wife of the celebrated Russian writer, Maxim Gorky, Andreyeva constantly helped him in his varied public and literary work. Since 1931, she has been Director of the Moscow House of Scientists and has been planning the programs for the numerous activities of the 3,000 professors, academicians and scientists who are members of this club.

Advances in Georgian Agriculture

The collective farm system is the main source of the achievements of Georgian villages in wartime. Only this system has made it possible for agriculture to meet the demands laid upon it by the war.

Last year Georgian collective farms gave the Government 18,000 tons of grain above the 1940 deliveries, and 28,800 tons of vegetables—5,000 tons more than in 1940.

In the years of war the collective and State farms of Georgia have achieved new successes in the field of agro-technics, raising the yield of grain by 1.5 centners per hectare. They have also increased the area under cultivation by 80,000 hectares, utilizing former wastelands. Cattle-breeding, the most important branch of Georgian agriculture, has also advanced considerably. All Government quotas for the delivery of dairy and meat products have been fulfilled on time.

The achievements of Georgian agriculture are in a great measure due to the fine work of the many machine-tractor stations of the Republic. The excellent showing made by its agriculture now enables Georgia to render aid to collective farms in districts liberated from the German occupation, as for example the Stavropol and Krasnodar Regions.

What Scientists Are Doing in the USSR

By Professor Alexander Baikov

Vice President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences

The Soviet Academy of Sciences, the foremost scientific institution of the USSR, conducts research in every branch of science. In wartime, of course, it pays particular attention to problems connected with the defense of the country, though long-term research has not been suspended.

Toward the end of 1941 a commission for the mobilization of the resources of the Urals, headed by Academician Vladimir Komarov, President of the Academy, was organized. Later on, the commission's brief was extended to Western Siberia and Kazakhstan. In 1942, under the direction of Professor Evgeny Chudakov, a commission for the mobilization of the resources of the Central Volga and Kama Regions was organized.

The Academy commissions have indicated new areas of mercury deposits in the Urals, and are directing the work of prospecting. They have worked out and supervised the application of measures to increase the output of Ural coal, above all of Bogoslovsk and Korkin coal. Scientists investigating the resources of the Central Volga and Kama Regions have concentrated on the new oil-bearing regions of Bashkiria.

In 1943 the Academy began to concern itself with the economic restoration of regions liberated from the German invaders. Its mining institute has completed a technical plan for the complete restoration of the Donets coalfields. Its geological institute has completed a geophysical map of the Donets coalfields, indicating new coal areas, and is prospecting for yet other coal deposits. Its metallurgy institute is aiding the restoration of the iron and steel industry of the Soviet south, by advising on the preparation of raw material and the restoration of blast furnaces, rolling and tube-drawing mills and the ferrous alloys industry.

The microbiology, genetics and botanical institutes have solved the problem of providing the country with new varieties of vitamin-containing raw materials. Scientists of the soil institute have demonstrated the possibility of planting beets in summer instead of spring, thus easing the pressure of the farmer's work in the spring. The institute of colloidal electrochemistry has proposed a new method for the rapid protection of parts against corrosion.

Expansion of turbine and centrifugal rectification, worked out by Professor Kapitza of the physical prob-

lems institute, has radically changed the technique of obtaining low temperatures. It has made it possible to reduce the dimensions of the apparatus considerably without reducing its capacity, and to cut down the quantity of metal used. During 1943 the oxygen-producing machines designed by Kapitza were introduced into industry on a large scale.

In the field of mathematical and technical sciences we did not confine ourselves to immediate practical problems. The physical institute continued research into cosmic rays and acoustics connected with the propagation of short waves. The mechanical institute has been working on the theory of films and in the field of catalysis.



Hero of Socialist Labor Academician Alexei Krylov, dean of Soviet ship-builders, wears the Order of Lenin and the gold Hammer and Sickle Medal

Our biologists, besides working to improve the medical and sanitary service of the Red Army, are also studying various problems connected with plant evolution, heredity and mutation.

The history and philosophy departments and institutions have completed several studies, of which the *History of Diplomacy* and the *History of Philosophy*, written collectively, are the most important.

During 1943 Academies of Sciences were inaugurated in Armenia and Uzbekistan.

During 1944 the economic and cultural reconstruction of Soviet regions devastated by the invaders will be one of the Academy's main concerns. Work on problems not connected with immediate needs will be on an even larger scale.

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STALIN'S ORDER OF THE DAY

No. 16: Moscow

Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief:

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women guerrillas!

The peoples of our country meet the 26th Anniversary of the Red Army in the midst of the historical vicissitudes of Soviet troops over the German-fascist troops. For over a year the Red Army has been conducting a glorious offensive, battering the armies of the Hitlerite invaders and sweeping them off Soviet soil. During this period the Red Army successfully carried out the winter campaign of 1942-43, won the summer battles of 1943 and developed the victorious winter offensive of 1943-44.

In these campaigns without parallel in the history of wars, the Red Army made a fighting advance to the west of up to 1,700 kilometers at places and cleared the enemy from nearly three-fourths of the Soviet territory he had captured.

In the course of the present winter campaign the Red Army liquidated the powerful defense of the Germans all along the Dnieper, from Zhlobin to Kherson, and thereby upset the Germans' calculations on the successful conduct of protracted defensive war on the Soviet-German front.

Within the three months of the winter campaign our gallant troops have won most important victories on the territories of the Ukraine west of the Dnieper; completed the liberation of the Kiev, Dniepropetrovsk and Drozhynsk Regions; liberated the entire Zhitomir Region and almost the whole of the Rovno and Kirovograd Regions, as well as a number of districts of the Vinnitsa, Nikolayev, Kamenetz-Podolsk and Volynia Regions. Resolute actions the Red Army liquidated the attempts of a German counter-offensive in the Zhitomir, Krivoye and Uman areas. Soviet troops arranged a new Stalingrad for the Germans west of the Dnieper by surrounding and wiping out 10 German divisions and one brigade in the Korsun-Shevchenkivskyi area.

A great victory has been won by Soviet troops at Leningrad. Our troops broke the powerful system of permanent, deeply-echeloned fortifications of the enemy, routed a strong grouping of German troops and completely freed Leningrad from enemy blockade and barbarous shellings. Soviet soldiers are completing the clearing of the Leningrad and Kalinin Regions of the fascist fiends and have set foot on the soil of Soviet Estonia. The mass expulsion of the occupationists from Soviet Byelorussia is under way: the Gomel and Pryluchye Regions have been nearly wholly liberated, as well as a number of districts of the Mogilev and Vitebsk Regions.

Under the unfavorable conditions of the present winter, having overcome the powerful defensive zones of the enemy, our troops within the three months of the winter campaign cleared of the invaders about 200,000 square kilometers of Soviet soil. The Red Army recaptured from the enemy over 13,000 inhabited localities, including 82 towns and 320 railway stations. New millions of Soviet citizens have been delivered from fascist captivity. Important agricultural and industrial areas with the richest resources of iron ore and manganese have been restored to our motherland. The Germans have lost these economically important areas to which they clung so desperately.

Now it is probably already obvious to everyone that Hitlerite Germany is irresistibly heading for catastrophe. True, the conditions for the prosecution of war in the present war are more favorable for Germany during the last World War, when from the very beginning to the end of the war she waged a struggle on two fronts. However, a great drawback for Germany is the fact that in this war the Soviet Union proved much stronger than old Tsarist Russia was in the last war.

In the First World War six great powers—France, Russia, Great Britain, the United States of America, Italy and Japan—fought on two fronts against the German bloc. In the present war Italy and Japan went

over to Germany's side, Finland joined the fascist bloc, Rumania who in the last war fought against Germany passed over, and up to the present Germany's main forces are still engaged on one front against the Soviet Union.

It is known from history that Germany always won a war when she fought on one front and, on the contrary, lost a war when she was forced to fight on two fronts. In the present war Germany, though fighting with her main forces on one front against the USSR, nevertheless not only proved unable to score a victory but has been placed on the verge of disaster by the powerful blows of the armed forces of the Soviet Union. If the Soviet Union fighting single-handed not only withstood the onslaught of the German war machine, but also inflicted decisive defeats upon the German-fascist troops, all the more hopeless will be the situation of Hitlerite Germany when the main forces of our Allies join in action and the powerful and growing offensive of the armies of all the Allied States develops against Hitlerite Germany.

The German-fascist brigands are now tossing about in search of ways to save themselves from disaster. Again they jumped at "total" mobilization in the rear, although Germany's manpower resources are depleted. The fascist ringleaders make desperate attempts to provoke discord in the camp of the anti-Hitler coalition and thereby to drag out the war. Hitlerite diplomats rush from one neutral country to another, strive to establish contacts with pro-Hitler elements, hinting at the possibility of a separate peace now with our State, now with our Allies.

All these subterfuges of the Hitlerites are doomed to failure, as the anti-Hitler coalition is founded on the vital interests of the Allies, who have set themselves the task of smashing Hitlerite Germany and her associates in Europe. It is this very community of basic interests that results in the consolidation of the fighting alliance of the USSR, Great Britain and the United States in the progress of the war. The hour is nearing of final reckoning for all the crimes committed by the Hitlerites on Soviet soil and in the occupied countries of Europe.

The victorious offensive of the Red Army became possible thanks to the new labor exploits of the Soviet people in all branches of our national economy. The working people of the Soviet Union buttressed the summer victories of the Red Army on the fronts with new production victories in the rear. Workers of our industry fulfil before the scheduled time and exceed programs fixed by the State; put into commission new factories, blast-furnaces and power stations; restore in the liberated districts at unparalleled speed the industry demolished by the occupationists.

The heroic efforts of the working class further strengthen the military material base of the Red Army and thus hasten the hour of our final victory.

Soviet peasantry supplies the State with food for the Army and cities, with raw materials for industry and renders self-denying support to the Red Army. Soviet intelligentsia renders direct leading aid to the workers and peasants in developing production and meeting the requirements of the Red Army. The working people of the liberated districts daily extend their assistance to the Red Army—their liberator—and add the production of factories and agriculture undergoing restoration to the general stream of front-bound supplies. There is no doubt but that in the future, too, by its heroic labor and by the exertion of all its efforts, the Soviet people will insure the continuous growth of the productive forces of the country for the earliest and final defeat of the German-fascist invaders.

The creation of new army formations in the Union Republics, which has been prepared by the fighting companionship of the peoples of the USSR in the Patriotic War and by the entire history of our State, will further strengthen the Red Army and will add new fighting forces to its ranks.

Comrades Red Army men, Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals, comrades men and women guerrillas!

In the great war of liberation for the freedom and independence of our motherland you have displayed miracles of heroism. The Red Army has achieved a resolute turn in the course of the war in our favor and now marches confidently toward final victory over the enemy. The enemy suffers one defeat after another.

However, he has not yet been smashed. Seeing approaching doom and the inevitability of retribution for all the monstrous crimes they committed on our soil, the Hitlerite bandits resist with the fury of doomed men. They hurl into battle their last forces and reserves, cling to every meter of Soviet ground, to every advantageous line. For this very reason, no matter how great our successes, we must, just as before, soberly appraise the enemy's strength, be vigilant not to permit self-conceit, complacency and heedlessness in our ranks. There has been no instance as yet in the history of wars of the enemy jumping into the abyss of himself. To win a war one must lead the enemy to the abyss and push him into it. Only shattering blows steadily growing in their power can crush the resistance of the enemy and bring us to final victory.

With this end in view it is necessary to continue to perfect the combat training of the men and the military art of the commanders of our Army. It is the duty of the Red Army to daily raise its military art to a higher level, incessantly and thoroughly to study the enemy's tactics, skilfully and in time to unriddle his insidious tricks, and oppose our own more perfect tactics to the enemy tactics. It is necessary that the combat experience and achievements

the foremost units and formations of the Red Army become the possession of all our troops, that the entire Red Army, all its men and officers, learn to batter the enemy in accordance with all the rules of modern military science.

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women guerrillas! Greeting and congratulating you upon the 26th Anniversary of the Red Army, I order:

1. All rank and file and sergeants' personnel—infantrymen, mortar gunners, artillerymen, fliers, tankmen, sappers, signalmen, cavalrymen—to continue defatigably to perfect their combat skill, to make full use of our splendid fighting equipment, to batter the enemy in the way he is battered by our glorious guardsmen, to carry out precisely the orders of commanders, to strengthen discipline and order, to enhance organization.
2. Officers and generals of all arms—to perfect the art of direction of troops, the tactics of maneuvering, the interaction of all arms in the course of battle, to apply more boldly and widely the experience of the advanced units and formations of Guards combat practice, to raise to a higher level the quality of the staff work and the work of the army rear establishments, to improve and develop our reconnaissance by every means.
3. The entire Red Army—by a skilful combination of fire and maneuver to break up the enemy's defense in its entire depth, to give the enemy no respite, to suppress in time enemy attempts to stem the offensive by counter-attacks, skilfully to organize

the pursuit of the enemy, not to allow him to carry away his equipment, by bold maneuver to envelop the flanks of the enemy's troops, to break through to the enemy rear, to surround the enemy's troops, to split and wipe them out if they refuse to down arms.

4. Men and women guerrillas—to increase assistance to the Red Army, to raid the enemy's headquarters and garrisons, to batter his rear establishments, to disrupt his communications and signal service, to deprive him of the possibility of bringing up his reserves.

5. To mark the great victories won by the armed forces of the Soviet State in the course of the past year, today, February 23, on the day of the 26th Anniversary of the Red Army, at 6 P.M., the valiant troops of the Red Army shall be saluted in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Gomel and Rostov with 20 gun salvos.

Glory to our victorious Red Army!

Glory to Soviet arms!

Glory to our gallant men and women guerrillas!

Long live our great Soviet motherland!

Long live our Communist Party of the Soviet Union—inspirer and organizer of the great victories of the Red Army!

Death to the German invaders!

(Signed) SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION STALIN

Moscow, February 23, 1944



Field Nurse Olga Ustupka, of the Guards, dresses the wounds of a Red Army man under fire

With the Fighters on Sector "X"

By War Correspondent Nikitin

The outline of what looks like an old fortress softens under the white covering and merges with the terrain. This is one of those sectors where, in the language of the communiques, "nothing of importance has taken place" for some time, where the days are rounds of "patrol activities and artillery and trench-mortar duels."

On closer examination the pile of ruins turns out to be a battery, as well as an ancient fortress. The snow-covered mound is a gun emplacement. The little ditch with the rounded edges is a communication trench from a blockhouse to the machine gunners' dugout. Thin wire runs along it. It is covered with snow. Life pulsates in steel threads under the hard insulating layer.

"This is Swan speaking, square number X, left of mound. I see embrasure 200 yards straight from given landmark. Continuing observation. Checking my guess," reports observer Zakharov. He is a tall, handsome Ural mountaineer, a hunter and tracker and a wit besides. Day after day, by hardly perceptible signs, Zakharov's hunter's eye deciphers enemy fire systems and fortifications.

Cat Gives Warning

A cat runs past. That means there is a German blindage nearby. Otherwise how could a domestic animal which loves comfort and warmth appear in this snow-covered steppe?

Yesterday there were two mounds near the small hollow. They gave no sign of life. And this morning there are four. "Observers or snipers," Zakharov decides, "or perhaps both." On the fresh snow behind the German lines is a stripe, clearly visible through field-glasses. It looks like a path. Someone passed that way last night. "Blockhouses, or outposts, or trenches," notes the observer. He peers at the snow-covered glass, at heaps of stones brought from no one knows where to this narrow, sandy strip of land.

Suspicion grows in Zakharov's mind. He recalls his old teacher's stories about the structure of the earth, about the lay of terrain. If one lies on the ground for a long time looking at the folds of the steppe, they seem drawn in chalk on the school blackboard. But why is this wavy line on the left steeper than it should be? Why this third wave behind those two hillocks of suspiciously regular shape?

Zakharov is almost certain there is a German block-

house here. It should be quite near. This is an obvious place for flanking fire. But it's not enough to suspect. One must know. The hillock looks like a pot turned upside down.

Suddenly the thunder of explosions rends the silence. A Soviet battery has sent a couple of shells across. The Germans obligingly reply. Observers o-



Sorrel soup—a specialty of Red Army cook Zakharchenko

duty take note of flashes and sound. Zakharov is the alert. His eyes are glued to the hillock. For a brief instant a black square flashes at its base, then disappears like a shadow.

Scouts go out that night to investigate. They cra-

up to the suspicious hillock. Sure enough, it is a well-guarded enemy blockhouse.

The next morning flares sweep the German defenses, bombing the enemy positions and at the same time covering the work of the scouting plane. Soon photographs will be on the chief of staff's desk. Grain by grain, information about the enemy's fortifications, his strength and his fire system is collected. All the time an incessant hunt for "tongues" (prisoners who will talk) is in progress.

German prisoners give information ever more willingly. Volubly they supplement and confirm data collected by the scouts. Zakharov's notes read: "Blockhouse is dug into rampart. This is a machine-gun blockhouse. Has embrasure facing north. Is connected with blindage by communication trench roofed with logs to a thickness of about two yards. Garrison consists of three Germans."

But that is not all. In order to be able to silence

this objective at the critical moment and clear a way for the infantry, it is necessary to try out the most typical enemy blockhouse in this sector for endurance and strength. And so a battery hammers away. Observers report to the commander: "Blockhouse demolished after six hits."

The Germans rebuild it in two nights. But the observer is not particularly interested. The blockhouse has been placed on record, ranged, and a certain Soviet gun crew will put it out of action all in good time, when the Command gives the order.

Men off duty gather round, talk over news from home. On this sector there is "nothing to report." But behind it is the hard toil of war, of life full of deprivations, of valor and of glory.

Victory is forged in these seemingly quiet days, as well as in days of violent battle. War does not cease for a moment. It only assumes different forms.

Comedy in Hitler's Headquarters

The following communique was issued by the Soviet Information Bureau on February 23:

On February 3 the Supreme Command of the Red Army announced that a large grouping of German troops was surrounded in the area north of Zvenigorodka-Shpola. The Soviet Information Bureau daily reported the progress of operations for the annihilation of the surrounded German troops.

On February 18 of this year the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army issued an order announcing that after 14 days of fierce fighting the operation for the annihilation of 10 divisions and one brigade of the Eighth German army which had been surrounded in the Korsun-Shevchenkivskyi area was completed. On the same day the Soviet Information Bureau made public factual data on the results of this operation for the annihilation of the large grouping of enemy troops, brilliantly carried out by our troops. The German command had stubbornly hushed the fact of encirclement of their troops and even clamored about imaginary successful engagements in that area.

Early in 1943, after the annihilation by Soviet troops of the 300,000-strong German-fascist army at Stalingrad, the Supreme Command of the German army dared to admit the heavy defeat of their army on the Soviet-German front. The Hitlerite ruling clique then announced a three-day mourning throughout Germany for their 300,000-strong army surrounded and wiped out by Soviet troops at the walls

of Stalingrad, but now times have changed and the Hitlerites sing different tunes.

After the heavy defeats the German army sustained during the past year the Hitlerite clique no longer dares openly to admit the grave failures with which the German army has met on our front. The German-fascist war machine, which has been placed by the Red Army on the verge of utter defeat, cannot stand such confessions without grave military shocks. Therefore it is clear for what reasons Hitler's headquarters persistently concealed from the German army, the German people and world public opinion both the fact of the encirclement of over 70,000 German-fascist troops north of the Zvenigorodka-Shpola line, and especially the fact of their annihilation by the Red Army.

However no matter how hard the Germans tried to hush up the major defeat of their troops, they were compelled to speak out because as a result of the annihilation of the 10 surrounded German divisions, 55,000 German officers and men were killed, 18,200 Germans taken prisoner and all equipment and arms of the surrounded German troops seized. It is well-known that the German command made desperate attempts to deliver their troops from encirclement, and when they failed in this the Hitlerites were seized with panic and confusion.

The trick to which the German command has now resorted cannot be regarded otherwise than as a desperate step of gamblers and swindlers who have gone

too far. And this trick consists in that, after the annihilation of the German-fascist troops surrounded in the Korsun-Shevchenkivskyi area, Hitler's headquarters alleged that over 70,000 killed German officers and men were safe and in good health, having successfully broken out of the encirclement.

Of course the Germans would not mind staging a parade of their 10 divisions, but as the saying goes, nobody rises from the dead. Having lost tens of thousands of officers and men killed by the Red Army during 14 days of fighting for the annihilation of the surrounded German divisions, the Hitlerites console themselves: 10 German-fascist divisions no longer exist, but there exist generals who abandoned their troops to the mercy of fate and escaped from them by air. These are, in the first place, the commander of the 112th Infantry Division, Major General Lieb, and the commander of the SS Viking Tank Division, Major General Gille.

Taking advantage of the fact that the German generals who deserted their troops and escaped in transport planes have found themselves in the headquarters of the German army, the Hitlerites staged a ludicrous farce. Hitler received these generals in his headquarters and presented to them the "highest decoration," allegedly for their "outstanding personal services and for the gallant struggle of the troops under their command."

It is obvious that in any army founded on universally accepted principles these generals—deserters who led their troops into an impasse and dishonestly abandoned them there for extermination—would be

branded with eternal disgrace and would face severe judgment, but Hitler and his SS generals cannot concern themselves with matters of honor. The purpose of this whole swindling farce staged in Hitler's headquarters is clear. By means of this stupid trick the Hitlerites attempt to conceal a second Stalingrad arranged by the Red Army for the German troops, to conceal the unparalleled slaughter which the Red Army arranged for the German-fascist bandits, to conceal the crimes of Hitler, who doomed 10 German divisions to extermination.

The same purpose is pursued by the next act of the farce—the decoration of the commander of the 11th German Army Corps, General Stemmermann, who commanded the surrounded grouping and was killed in the course of the engagement for the annihilation of the trapped German divisions. The body of this ill-starred general was picked up on the battlefield in full general's attire after the annihilation of the surrounded German troops. It is clear that Stemmermann now needs Hitler's decoration no more than he needs a poultice.

One thing is made obvious by the farce stupidly enacted in Hitler's headquarters—bad times have come for the German-fascist army on the Soviet-German front if Hitler has begun to pass his fallen troops for active ones, and to decorate generals who disgracefully deserted the battlefield. It is also apparent to everyone that this new swindling trick of the Hitlerites who have lost their heads, this clumsy new farce, cannot mislead anyone as regards the fate of the 10 German divisions wiped out by Soviet troops in the Korsun-Shevchenkivskyi area.

BUTCHERS

By B. Mikhailov

We entered the village of Yamskovitsy, in the Kingissep District, Leningrad Region, immediately after the Germans were driven out. A terrible sight met our eyes.

The still-warm bodies of Soviet children, mothers and aged people lay on the cold snow near the houses. Weeping relatives and friends who had returned to the village from their hiding places in the nearby forests surrounded the bodies.

Vera Slepneva, cousin of Hero of the Soviet Union Slepnev, sobbed over the bodies of her father and mother, murdered by bullets from a German pistol. Tears streamed down the face of Lydia Silantyeva, who could hardly recognize the mutilated face of her sister, next to whose body lay her two-year-old daughter Tatyana.

Twenty-four inhabitants of Yamskovitsy were murdered because they refused to leave their native village to become slaves in Germany. A very old

woman, Olga Safronova, had just emerged from a cellar where she had been hiding from the bandits. "The Germans ordered us to follow them," she said. "We refused, of course. Then the criminals drove us from our homes, beat everyone they could find, and afterward shot them."

Alexander Stepov, the local minister, stopped in the center of the crowd.

"Russian people," he said, "the crime committed here by the Germans has plunged us into grief and anguish. Before us lie 24 bodies shot to death by savages. Disgrace unto the executioners! You see here the bodies of Paul Slepnev, 78 years of age, and his wife, Ekaterina Slepneva; 14-year-old Raya Kramorova, and a two-year-old child and her mother. Why were they killed? Because they refused to be driven to German servitude. Fellow citizens, bow your heads over the bodies of these innocent sufferers. Close your ranks for the emancipation of Russian soil from the fascist heathen!"

We Don't Worry About Labor Shortage

By Varvara Mazharova

This article is from the pen of a Soviet peasant woman, typical of those who have shouldered the burden of wartime farming while their men are at the front.

I am not young any more. Soon I'll be 65, and it is time for me to be tending my grandchildren—five of them I've got. But the war started and took away my son Sergei to the front, and he was our chairman.

So then the collective farmers came to me—mostly women they were—and they said: "You be our chairman, Varvara. You may be over 60, but we know you'll be able to manage the job well, just as well as your son did. And we will all help you all we can."

Well, I didn't take long to think about it. The work had to be done. So I agreed to be chairman. At first



Restoring the public baths in liberated Vyazma

it was hard enough. Even before the war, my son Sergei insisted we sow wheat. That had never been tried before in our parts. Rye was our only crop. We tried it on a small parcel of land and then saved all the grain for seed. Then next year we increased the wheat acreage eight times.

There were plenty of arguments. Old Ivan Mikhayev was the noisiest of all. But I insisted. Well, time went on and the wheat we are so proud of came up. We went out to see how the crop was coming on, my assistants, Mikhail Anisimov, Jacob Vaptusov and myself. The reapers were waiting for us.

Anisimov chose an average spike, rubbed it and blew. The wheat was ripe: the husks flew away. We tried it in our teeth and it was no longer raw. The women reapers couldn't wait. They had brought their scythes along and got to work, all as happy as can be.

They reaped and joked. They said: "Look out, our wheat cakes are burning already!"

Then came the threshing. The threshing machine was out of order. We put two lads to repairing it, Ivan Leontyev and Tolka Afonin. They had Alexei Chekalkin to help them. I kept at them all night, and in the morning the machine was ready for work.

When my son was at home the women had always been scared of the thresher. But now Maria Liseika and Manya Seregina suddenly took their places on the machine, as though there was nothing they wanted more in the world. All through the harvesting we made our deliveries to the State and paid all the farmers according to their work days. Tatyana Fokina had a whole cartload, Yelena Koroleva the same, and the others no less.

So it turned out I was right about the wheat, and our folks began to eat wheat bread. This year we handed over to the State double the amount of last year, and have much more left for ourselves too.

I still want to tell you how our Solochinsky district became patrons of the Masalsk collective farmers in the Smolensk Region. Some of our people went there to see how things were and found nothing but brick stoves and chimneys still standing. The Masalsk people had no fences or yards or grain left. We made up our minds to help them as much as possible.

The collective farm chose 15 scythes to send them, good new ones, and sickles and hammers and forks. Some people brought extra forks of their own—Yegor Petrov and Andrei Fapkin, for instance. Andrei got up at the meeting and said he would bring a fork as a gift from himself.

We chose 15 calves from the collective farm herd, seven cows and 25 yearling ewes. Our milkmaids and stablemen looked after them as if they had been their own children, and fed them better than the rest of the herd. The animals arrived at Masalsk in fine shape. The Masalsk farmers sent us a letter of thanks.

I would like to tell you about our farm manager, Marusya, and her sister Katya, who took the grain and all the farm produce to be weighed, and about our field brigade leaders Anyuta Karasikova and Anna Ivanchikova, and all the other girls I have watched grow up into women and become the main support of the collective farm during the war.

But I haven't so much time, and neither have you. I'll only say that I, as chairman, don't worry any more about shortage of labor. I know our strength. We are all yearning for an early victory, and we'll spare nothing to achieve it.

Notes from Front and Rear

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was recently conferred upon Emelyan Sokol, 40 years of age, and his son, Grigori, 20. Both joined the Red Army as machine gunners after the liberation of their native village. During a violent counter-attack by German tank and infantry forces, father and son held their ground until the tanks had passed, then pinned the infantry to the ground with withering fire. When three of the tanks turned and rolled toward their trench, the machine gunners used the anti-tank rifle of a wounded comrade and knocked out two of the German panzers.

★

There are now 500 machine and tractor stations in nine liberated regions of the Ukraine. Trains are running on all the main railways.

★

Sanatoria and rest homes in the liberated areas of the Soviet Union are to be restored in the shortest possible time, states a resolution of the Secretariat of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. The Poltava, Voroshilovgrad, Kharkov and Stalinsk Regions are sending brigades of engineers and technical workers to inspect the condition of buildings. In Kharkov a special administration is to be set up with auxiliary workshops and other enterprises to organize repairs and reconstruction.

★

The initial stages of restoration in the Donbas have been rapid enough for the Stalin coal combine alone to produce a million tons of coal within three months of the liberation of the area.

★

Kaburov, a senior locomotive engineer employed at the Ulan Ude station—east of Lake Baikal in Siberia—and his assistant, Gubin, have set a new record by driving their engine 1,000,000 kilometers (621,000 miles) without capital repairs. The engine, which is in excellent condition, received an enthusiastic welcome from a large crowd of citizens on its return from a recent trip. It is expected that it will do another 300,000 kilometers.

★

Two Ukrainian guerrillas, Sidor Kovpak and Alexei Fedorov, who already hold the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, received a second Gold Star Medal. Bronze busts of these two men are to be erected in their birthplaces. Kovpak is a 62-year-old worker, an old Party member. The Germans put a price of 500,000 marks on his head.

Flying in the area of the Kerch Straits and the eastern shores of the Crimea, Senior Lieutenant Kamozin, a fighter pilot of the Fleet Air Arm, recently brought down three German planes and crippled three more in one day's fighting. Kamozin first engaged a fascist bomber attempting to strike at the positions of Soviet marines. His attack left it in flames, and a few moments later he shot down one Messerschmitt and set fire to another. In a second flight he engaged a group of Junkers bombers, shooting down one and crippling another. Meanwhile a German observer plane appeared, directing the fire of Nazi batteries on a pier where Soviet cutters were unloading. The indefatigable pilot attacked this plane also and downed it.

★

The title Hero of the Soviet Union, the Order of Lenin and the Gold Star Medal have been awarded to three Ukrainian guerrilla commanders for skilled and courageous leadership of groups which established bridgeheads on the rivers Dnieper, Desna and Pripet and held them until the Red Army's arrival.

★

Designs dating from the Stone Age, the only ones found so far in the Soviet Union, have been discovered in the mountains of Sara Ak Saya in Uzbekistan. They are cut into the rock and represent the hunting of bulls by primitive man.

★

Another of the five great hydro-stations of the Farkhadstroy project now being built in the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan to irrigate vast desert regions that have not been fertile for centuries, has been completed. Tens of thousands of people came with banners and flags to celebrate the occasion. The whole project will be finished by the middle of this year.

★

About 100,000 workers are being fed in the public dining-rooms of Kharkov.

★

The State Theater Schools attached to the Maly Theater and the Nemirovich-Danchenko Art Theater, in Moscow, have been reorganized as higher educational institutions. They will train actors and producers and will have separate faculties for acting, study of the theater, and so on. They will also undertake scientific research work in the field of the theater.

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URALS WORKERS DOUBLE PRODUCTION

The people of the Urals have reported to Marshal Stalin on their achievements in the past year. The report was discussed in all factories, collective farms, machine-tractor stations, State farms, institutions and educational institutions of the Sverdlovsk Region, and was signed by 1,606,150 persons.

The report states:

In 1943 we produced from one and one-half to two times as much ammunition and equipment as in 1942. Our State plan for tanks, guns, mortars, aircraft and all types of armament has been completed and exceeded. By the end of 1943 there were 2,000 nomol and youth "front line" brigades of high productivity, as compared with 900 a year before.

In the Ural-Mashzavod machine works thousands of workers took part in the review of labor organization, and as a result, 1,800 men have already been sent for work elsewhere. Workshop after workshop, factory after factory, are adopting conveyor methods of production, to increase the output of first-class armaments for the front with a smaller number of workers.

We have learned to exercise greater economy in the use of fuel, raw material, electric power. Our electric power stations have saved about 100,000 tons of coal during the year. The blast furnace workers of plants under the People's Commissariat of the Iron and Steel Industry have saved 88,000 tons of coal and other varieties of coal. The Vysokogorsk mines saved 4,000,000 kilowatt hours of electric power.

Our rich, fertile territory continues to supply industry with the most valuable ores of our Ural mountains. Huge quantities of iron and copper, manganese, cobalt, platinum and other metals are being mined. Our fuel industry has also achieved great success. The output of coal and peat is double that of last year.

Workers in electric power stations have shown themselves skilled and experienced masters of their trade. With the help of workers of all branches of industry, they have equipped and repaired electric

power stations and organized the work there. As a result, the old turbines alone produced an additional 45,000 kilowatts.



Three times decorated tank driver and mechanic Kalimulla Habidulin, after a victorious battle. Habidulin's fighting record includes the ramming of three German tanks and the crushing of two anti-tank guns, two self-propelling guns and 10 motor trucks loaded with infantry.

The industrial capacity of the Urals is growing and developing to an extent unknown even in peacetime. The sum of capital investments amounted to one and one-half billion rubles this year. In 1943 we

built 10 marten furnaces, four ore mines, two coking batteries, blast furnaces, rolling mills, electric power stations, coal mines and other plants.

In the agricultural field, the collective farms, machine-tractor stations and State farms hold an honorable place. The May First collective farm, for instance, produced 245 tons of grain, 500 tons of potatoes and vegetables in excess of plan, and donated sheep and pigs and a herd of cows to liberated areas. Urals collective farmers have sent 15,000 pigs and 5,000 cows to the liberated areas.

Supplying Freed Regions

Our assistance to the liberated areas is increasing and widening day by day. Trainloads of equipment and all kinds of material stream westward continually. The Urals people are sending turbines, generators, motors, mining and metallurgical equipment, machine tools, pipes, electrical fittings and building material—everything the Urals possess.

Last year, together with the working people of the Molotov and Chelyabinsk Regions, we formed a volunteer tank corps, and equipped it with tanks, guns,

mortars and ammunition at our own expense outside of working hours.

We are fully conscious that the road to victory is not easy. In the New Year of 1944 we pledge ourselves to increase our labor productivity by at least 20 per cent, and to see that all branches of industry complete and exceed their State plans.

We shall take care of the material and living conditions of all working people, and in the first place of the families of men at the front. Difficulties created by war conditions will be overcome.

Wishing Marshal Stalin a Happy New Year, the people of the Urals say:

In you we see the greatest military commander of all times and nations. Your brilliant mind has inherited and absorbed all the valuable wisdom of the great patriots of Russia—Alexander Nevsky, Dmitri Donskoy, Peter the First, Suvorov, Kutuzov. You have enriched the science of State and military leadership with all the achievements of Russian culture, with its highest achievement—Leninism—and with the great Bolshevik Party's heroic experience of struggle and victory.

Liberated Trade Unionists Show Membership Cards

By A. Morozov

The author of this article is a Soviet engineer.

The Soviet trade unions resumed their activities two days after Salsk, my native town, had been liberated from the Germans. There was a big meeting of the workers and technical staff employed at the Salsk railway junction. The chairman asked who had managed to preserve his union membership card during the German occupation. A number of people went up to the platform and presented their cards. How strange they looked!

Kalmatsky, a carpenter, handed his book to the chairman. It was torn and yellowed. He had buried it in the ground, with other documents. Ivanov, an electrician, hid his card in the sole of his shoe. Chirikov, a section foreman, hid his in a box placed on top of a telegraph pole in the village of Proletarskaya.

The meeting was interested not only in the preservation of the membership cards, but also in how the trade union members had behaved under German rule. Burlachenko, a technician, who had been in the communication service for 30 years, was the first to take the floor. Burlachenko had tried to evacuate from the Ukraine. Caught by a German tank column in the

Salsk steppes, he had concealed his true profession, telling the Nazis he was an ordinary farmer.

The Germans put him to work on a threshing machine on the Gigant State farm. Burlachenko organized a group of trade union members who systematically carried out acts of sabotage. Agricultural machines were damaged, hundreds of gallons of fuel were wasted, while a considerable part of the crops was deliberately scattered and lost in the fields.

Aided Red Paratroops

In the winter Burlachenko accidentally fell in with a small detachment of Russian paratroops led by a Spanish captain who had his own account to settle with the Germans for Madrid and Barcelona. This group hid in haystacks in the heart of the steppes and Burlachenko, acting as a scout, brought back reports of the location of German forces and their plans to surround guerrilla columns. The technician carried on with this work until the Red Army came and liberated the Salsk steppes.

Kondratyev, a linesman, described how he had damaged German communication lines and managed to hide several dozen field telephones.

FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER SUVOROV

By D. Erde

Last year the Soviet Government instituted an Order of Suvorov, to be awarded to commanders directing their forces with outstanding success, and displaying the ability to carry operations through with determination to a victorious conclusion.

Military schools of the cadet type, bearing his name, have been established for Soviet war orphans. Suvorov is the Red Army man's exemplar.

Who, then, was Suvorov?

Alexander Suvorov was one of Russia's greatest field marshals, a genius in strategy and tactics who was never once defeated in the whole of his long military career. He was born in Moscow in 1730. His father was an officer, and from early childhood he was tremendously interested in everything military and in the history of warfare. In 1747 he began his years of service, fighting as a corporal in the wars against the Germans, Turks, Poles and French.

He received his baptism of fire during the seven years' war against the Germans from 1757 to 1763. He fought at Kunersdorf in 1759, and was with the Russian forces that captured Berlin in 1760. The Prussian troops of Frederick II were utterly routed. To this day the key to Berlin is kept in a Russian museum.

It was in 1790 that Suvorov led his men in the storming of the Ismail fortress, which had been considered impregnable. The famous French general, Moreau, tasted the bitter cup of defeat on April 17, 1799, when he clashed with Suvorov on the field of battle at the Adde.

"Nothing Impossible to a Russian"

At that time Russia and Austria were operating jointly against Napoleon's forces. Suvorov, commanding the Russo-Austrian army, cleared Northern Italy of the French in 1799. Then, on the orders of Tsar Paul I, Suvorov marched his troops into Switzerland, where the Austrians were hard-pressed by the French general Massenet. It was during this Swiss campaign and under the most trying conditions that Suvorov crossed the Saint Gothard on September 14, 1799. Suvorov's simple teaching, which he never tired of hammering into his men, was that nothing is impossible to a Russian.

He waged 63 battles, and lost none. He introduced much that was new into military science.

Suvorov developed the principles of his military art with exceptional simplicity and brilliance in his

Science of Victory, Active Military Art and other works. Those principles were: To strike suddenly, with immense driving force; relentlessly to strive to demolish the enemy's manpower; combination of out-flanking maneuvers and blows struck behind the enemy lines with offensive operations; determination and daring in hand-to-hand combat; comprehension of the task in hand and initiative as the basis of the soldier's intelligent participation in battle.

Suvorov relied on the soldier's understanding, and evaluated highly the morale factor in warfare. He sharply criticized the principles of the Prussian military experts, which at that time were considered the height of military science. He showed that the "Prussian muster," with its "show parade miracles," had no vitality, and only deadened the senses. He rejected the Prussian system of linear tactics, proving the necessity for deep compact columns, which he used in his operations. Suvorov's columns expressed the collective spirit and staunchness of the mass of his soldiers.

He loved Russia ardently. Addressing himself to future generations, he said: "May our successors, taking their example from me, be loyal to their homeland to the last."

His progressive ideas and innovations in the military field repeatedly made him the object of persecution. At that time the advocates of the Prussian discipline of the club had a great deal of influence in the Tsar's court, and with Tsar Paul himself. Suvorov refused to ingratiate himself with them. Consequently, Catherine II and her court favorites barely suffered him through the period of the wars when his military gifts were most needed. Tsar Paul made no secret of his dislike, and forced him to live cooped up in his estate at Konchansk, appointing vigilant police spies to watch over his activities.

On the insistence of Vienna and England, Suvorov was recalled from exile to head the Russo-Austrian armies operating against France in 1799. The Italian and Swiss campaigns ended Suvorov's military career. He died in Petersburg in 1800, mourned by his soldiers and the people.

The Soviet Government highly values Suvorov's strategy and tactics and the fighting traditions he championed. His teachings on the training of troops and their action in battle have been incorporated in the Red Army regulations. Soviet military science is developing and perfecting his strategy and tactics on the basis of the experience of modern warfare and the saturation of the army with modern weapons.

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The Germans put him to work on a threshing machine on the Gigant State farm. Burlachenko organized a group of trade union members who systematically carried out acts of sabotage. Agricultural machines were damaged, hundreds of gallons of fuel were wasted, while a considerable part of the crops was deliberately scattered and lost in the fields.

Aided Red Paratroops

In the winter Burlachenko accidentally fell in with a small detachment of Russian paratroops led by a Spanish captain who had his own account to settle with the Germans for Madrid and Barcelona. This group hid in haystacks in the heart of the steppes and Burlachenko, acting as a scout, brought back reports of the location of German forces and their plans to surround guerrilla columns. The technician carried on with this work until the Red Army came and liberated the Salsk steppes.

Kondratyev, a linesman, described how he had damaged German communication lines and managed to hide several dozen field telephones.

FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER SUVOROV

By D. Erde

Last year the Soviet Government instituted an Order of Suvorov, to be awarded to commanders directing their forces with outstanding success, and displaying the ability to carry operations through with determination to a victorious conclusion.

Military schools of the cadet type, bearing his name, have been established for Soviet war orphans. Suvorov is the Red Army man's exemplar.

Who, then, was Suvorov?

Alexander Suvorov was one of Russia's greatest field marshals, a genius in strategy and tactics who was never once defeated in the whole of his long military career. He was born in Moscow in 1730. His father was an officer, and from early childhood he was tremendously interested in everything military and in the history of warfare. In 1747 he began his years of service, fighting as a corporal in the wars against the Germans, Turks, Poles and French.

He received his baptism of fire during the seven years' war against the Germans from 1757 to 1763. He fought at Kunersdorf in 1759, and was with the Russian forces that captured Berlin in 1760. The Prussian troops of Frederick II were utterly routed. To this day the key to Berlin is kept in a Russian museum.

It was in 1790 that Suvorov led his men in the storming of the Ismail fortress, which had been considered impregnable. The famous French general, Moreau, tasted the bitter cup of defeat on April 17, 1799, when he clashed with Suvorov on the field of battle at the Adde.

"Nothing Impossible to a Russian"

At that time Russia and Austria were operating jointly against Napoleon's forces. Suvorov, commanding the Russo-Austrian army, cleared Northern Italy of the French in 1799. Then, on the orders of Tsar Paul I, Suvorov marched his troops into Switzerland, where the Austrians were hard-pressed by the French general Massenet. It was during this Swiss campaign and under the most trying conditions that Suvorov crossed the Saint Gothard on September 14, 1799. Suvorov's simple teaching, which he never tired of hammering into his men, was that nothing is impossible to a Russian.

He waged 63 battles, and lost none. He introduced much that was new into military science.

Suvorov developed the principles of his military art with exceptional simplicity and brilliance in his

Science of Victory, Active Military Art and other works. Those principles were: To strike suddenly, with immense driving force; relentlessly to strive to demolish the enemy's manpower; combination of out-flanking maneuvers and blows struck behind the enemy lines with offensive operations; determination and daring in hand-to-hand combat; comprehension of the task in hand and initiative as the basis of the soldier's intelligent participation in battle.

Suvorov relied on the soldier's understanding, and evaluated highly the morale factor in warfare. He sharply criticized the principles of the Prussian military experts, which at that time were considered the height of military science. He showed that the "Prussian muster," with its "show parade miracles," had no vitality, and only deadened the senses. He rejected the Prussian system of linear tactics, proving the necessity for deep compact columns, which he used in his operations. Suvorov's columns expressed the collective spirit and staunchness of the mass of his soldiers.

He loved Russia ardently. Addressing himself to future generations, he said: "May our successors, taking their example from me, be loyal to their homeland to the last."

His progressive ideas and innovations in the military field repeatedly made him the object of persecution. At that time the advocates of the Prussian discipline of the club had a great deal of influence in the Tsar's court, and with Tsar Paul himself. Suvorov refused to ingratiate himself with them. Consequently, Catherine II and her court favorites barely suffered him through the period of the wars when his military gifts were most needed. Tsar Paul made no secret of his dislike, and forced him to live cooped up in his estate at Konchansk, appointing vigilant police spies to watch over his activities.

On the insistence of Vienna and England, Suvorov was recalled from exile to head the Russo-Austrian armies operating against France in 1799. The Italian and Swiss campaigns ended Suvorov's military career. He died in Petersburg in 1800, mourned by his soldiers and the people.

The Soviet Government highly values Suvorov's strategy and tactics and the fighting traditions he championed. His teachings on the training of troops and their action in battle have been incorporated in the Red Army regulations. Soviet military science is developing and perfecting his strategy and tactics on the basis of the experience of modern warfare and the saturation of the army with modern weapons.

President Roosevelt Decorates Officers and Men of the Red Navy with United States Military Orders

For outstanding gallantry in action on the Soviet-German front against Hitlerite Germany, common foe of the USSR and the U. S. A., President Franklin D. Roosevelt has conferred decorations on officers and men of the Soviet Navy.

Rear Admiral Duncan, chief of the United States Naval Mission to the USSR, visited one of the bases of the Northern Red Fleet, where he presented the decorations to the officers and men.

(Pictures on page 5).



Rear Admiral Duncan, chief of the United States Naval Mission to the USSR, confers the U. S. Navy Cross upon Hero of the Soviet Union Commander I. Fisanovich

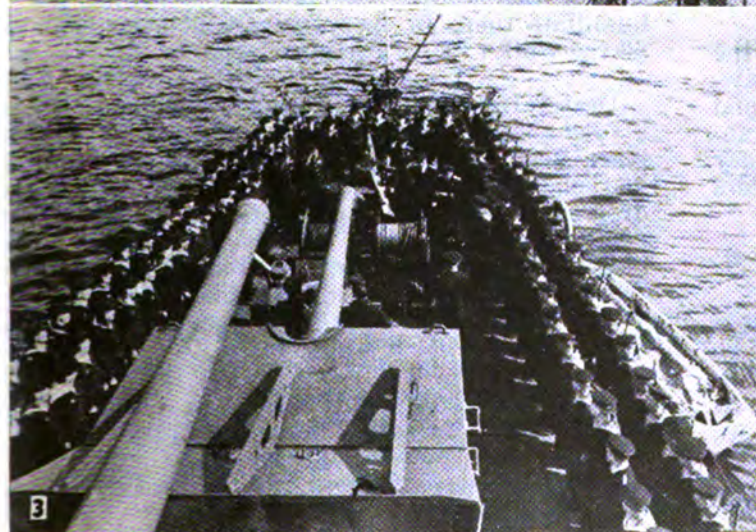
Sailor Guerrillas

The crews of many ships of the Baltic Fleet are now celebrating reunions with comrades long believed to be dead. These are the sailors who failed to return from landing groups for reconnoitering in the enemy rear, or who fell behind during the retreat from Tallinn in 1941, or were wrecked at sea near the German-occupied coast.

Many of these seamen hid in the thick forests of the Leningrad Region and there joined local guerrilla units, or formed guerrilla detachments of their own. Sailor Sergei Reutov, who failed to return from reconnaissance two years ago, was discovered in command of a large guerrilla detachment. He no longer wore his naval uniform, which was scarcely adapted for forest life, but still kept the striped jersey which marked him as a sailor. Reutov's guerrilla group made several very daring raids on German headquarters and garrisons, including a garrison at Weimarn station, and derailed German trains carrying war materiel.

In June, 1941, when the war struck on the Black Sea, submarine sailor Georgi Pankratov was on sick leave in his native village in the Leningrad Region. Unable to return to his boat he hid in the forest and organized a guerrilla unit of his fellow villagers. This group grew into a large detachment, controlling an entire district into which the Germans feared to venture and where the collective farmers were safe from humiliation and plunder. For his success as commander of the guerrilla detachment, which has become an actual military unit, sailor Pankratov has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

When the Red Army launched the offensive in the Leningrad area, the sailor guerrillas led their detachments to meet Soviet troops and inflicted heavy losses on the retreating Germans.



(1) Rear Admiral Duncan presents the U. S. Navy Cross to Soviet Commander Anton Gurin; (2) Guards Submarine M-171, under Hero of the Soviet Union Commander I. Fisanovich, has sent 13 German warships and transports to the bottom; (3) Raising the Guards colors on Commander Gurin's ship, the destroyer Gremyaschy, which has aided in conveying war cargoes from the U. S. and Great Britain; (4) Submarine Warrant Officer S. Kukushkin receives the U. S. Distinguished Service Medal from Rear Admiral Duncan; (5) Left to right, Rear Admiral Archer of the British Navy, Commander Rigerman of the Red Navy, an interpreter, and Rear Admiral Duncan, at the presentation ceremony



The Shadow of Von Paulus

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The German army newspaper *Panzerfaust* (*Panzer Fist*) has featured an article under the very impressive headline: "Why are we retreating?"

"You have often asked the question: 'Why are we retreating?' " it runs. "We defenders of the European fortress have to utilize the advantages of operations on the inner line. That is why we are shortening the front. It breaks our heart to part with territory, for the capture of which we have shed so much blood, but sentimental considerations are of secondary importance as compared with the demands of war. We have gained. We have safer, shorter communications and a shorter front."

That is risky talk. The geographical caprices of the paper may well intrigue its subscribers. What strange zigzags from Vitebsk to Rovno and from Rovno to Nikopol! It should give a good laugh to the Fritzes. Safer and shorter communications! Just like von Paulus had!

To distract the Germans from their troubles, the Berlin broadcasting station has turned to zoology. On January 11, the announcer stated: "Our microphone is placed outside the hyena's cage. The question that interests us is whether hyenas can be tamed, whether they can be turned into domestic animals. It is said that the ancient Egyptians learned to domesticate them. And now the keeper is calmly stroking the back of an old hyena."

Why have the Germans become so interested in hyenas? Perhaps because Germany's hyenas and jackals are beginning to yelp. For instance, Hitler wants the Rumanians to defend Odessa. But the Rumanians are fleeing from Bucharest.

The Red Army's offensive has obviously stunned the Rumanian hyenas. Not so long ago they were gnawing at the bones the Germans were pleased to toss and announcing triumphantly that: "Odessa has been annexed for all time to greater Rumania." Now they have lost interest in Odessa. The Rumanian fiddlers are hastily packing.

Blind Hyenas

Meanwhile the newspaper *Porunka Vremy* writes: "There can be nothing more insulting to us than to be called satellites. Our alliance with Germany is voluntary. Germany's satellites? That is ridiculous. From the point of view of our national dignity, we may say that Germany is the satellite of Rumania."

The Rumanians probably think they can emerge

from the war unscathed. Didn't the paper *Timpa* recently declare that "Rumania never attacked anyone. She never laid claim to other people's territory."

Well, as Berlin radio informed its audience, real hyenas can see at birth. The Rumanian variety will remain blind until the day they die.

You can imagine Hitler's indignation. He the satellite of the stooge Antonescu! The experiment of domesticating hyenas has obviously failed. Tamer-in-chief Himmler has left hurriedly for Bucharest. We'll see how well he will succeed in stroking the back of the old Rumanian hyena.

The *Bremer Zeitung* observes that hundreds of thousands more foreign workers will have to be brought to Germany because Germans previously exempt from military service will have to be used to replenish the battered German divisions.

The editor notes with melancholy that slaves will be harder to find this year. In the east, enormous territory has been lost, and in the west the enslaved peoples are stiffening their resistance.

The slaves no longer gladden the slave-owners. The time is past when the Holstein farmer used to say with delight: "I have a Polish girl from a music conservatorium working in my pigsty."

The *Danziger Vorposten* writes: "It may well be that pampered aliens will play impudent tricks on us."

You have to know Nazi psychology to understand the epithet "pampered." The Germans beat foreign slaves with whips, feed them on potato peelings, humiliate them in every way—and keep exclaiming all the while: "How I pamper you!"

Doctor Hans Rupp, of Bremen, writes in a letter to his son: "After the last raid a disgusting scene took place near the station. Frenchmen employed in a workshop were told to put out a fire, but the scoundrels remained true to character. Taking advantage of the confusion, they attacked Lieutenant Zimmer and he died the next day. What an irony of fate! To escape the bombs and die at the hands of rogues! These foreigners are the Trojan horse in our country. I don't know what it'll all come to."

I can tell Doctor Hans Rupp what it will come to. When the long-awaited and fast-approaching hour strikes, 12,000,000 foreign slaves will not wait for international tribunals to rid the world of quite a number of loathsome slave-owners.

DJAMBUL—KAZAKH PEOPLE'S POET

By Professor Valeri Kirpotin

Djambul, beloved poet and minstrel of the Kazakh people, was 98 years of age on February 1. In two years the Soviet people will celebrate his centenary.

One cannot recall the biography of this venerable bard without linking it with the fate of his people. Djambul's life reflects the rise of the Kazakh state from poverty, oppression and obscurity to freedom, health and power.

The poet's childhood was harsh and dismal; while still very young he began to earn his bread by tending flocks. But even in his earliest years he revealed a remarkable gift for song. He loved the *dombra* and the *kobyz*, the national instruments of his people—to the accompaniment of which the Kazakh minstrels improvised their smooth-flowing melodies. With ecstatic delight the boy drank in the songs of strolling players, without whom the smallest family feast or the greatest national holiday was incomplete. He memorized the verses of the early epics and many long passages from the Oriental classics, including the *Arabian Nights*.

At the age of 15 Djambul was fortunate enough to come to the attention of the outstanding contemporary Kazakh folk poet, Suyunbai, and soon became his eager pupil.

One of the very old traditions of the Kazakhs—who are a poetic people—is the "tournament of songs," in which bards extemporize on subjects suggested by the audience. The winner is acclaimed by a vote of the people. Enriched by his association with Suyunbai, and having absorbed the epics of his people and the Oriental classics, Djambul invariably carried off the palm from these tournaments, and his fame spread far and wide.

The songs of young Djambul were sad and plaintive. As he grew older, they became even more melancholy, until in the long pre-revolutionary years of reaction, which spelled misery and degradation for himself and his people, they ceased altogether.

But with the coming of Soviet power, Djambul's songs again resounded throughout the Kazakh land. Now they were vibrant with new and hopeful strains. One of his finest poems appeared in 1924 after his visit to Alma-Ata, busy and thriving capital, for the annual celebration of the birth of the Kazakh Soviet Republic. Djambul was greatly moved. His poetic gift flowered into a wonderful song of joy at the rejuvenation and elevation of his people. In this poem he extolled the Red Army and expressed the gratitude of the Kazakhs to their great and trusted friends, Lenin and Stalin.

When Djambul and his kinsmen joined a collective farm in 1929 they felt completely independent and secure. With fresh vigor Djambul wrote the beautiful poem *My Country*, which struck a deep chord in song lovers throughout the Soviet Union. Readers were amazed at the craftsmanship, music, philosophic depth and ardent patriotism of his verse.

This poet of the Kazakh people sings of the firm brotherhood of all nationalities of the Soviet Union. The lines in which he speaks of Stalin—his simple manner, his humaneness, his power, his eagle eye, his genius—are imbued with great and genuine poetic feeling.

One of Djambul's most stirring poems was inspired by the new Soviet Constitution. In 1937 he was chosen by his people to represent Kazakhstan as a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Despite his advanced years, he has taken an active part in the Soviet parliamentary sessions, and his electors have found in him a wise and responsive friend.

During the war, the venerable poet with his youthful heart has fired the Kazakh people with a militant spirit and deep hatred for the enemy. Among his most moving wartime poems are *The Defenders of Moscow* and *The Country's Order of the Day*. In the stern days of great battles near the gates of Moscow Djambul wrote:

*Mighty Moscow be relentless!
Crush the enemy, lash him,
Mow him day and night, Moscow!*

His words stirred the whole country.

The plight of embattled Leningrad was like a deep wound in Djambul's sensitive heart. He suffered with the great, invincible city, child of Peter I and later the scene of Lenin's historic activities—he hoped with it, for he knew the day would come when the Germans, bled white, would flee from its walls.

The people of Kazakhstan—a Republic rich in natural resources and the strength of its people and its warriors—helped Leningrad. Djambul proudly exclaimed: "That is why the railway of Kazakhstan stretches to you, people of Leningrad—my children, my pride!"

The youthful ardor of Djambul's verse, his original form and powerful appeal for the strengthening of the brotherhood of peoples, has made his works dear to the hearts of all the nationalities and peoples of the Soviet Union.

At the Tomb of Tamerlane

By Professor Mikhail Masson, Doctor of Archeological Sciences

The author of this article is head of the Samarkand Archeological Expedition of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.

Scientific workers of the Uzbek SSR are making a comprehensive study of the culture of Central Asia in the 15th Century. They have completed a thorough investigation of the splendid architectural memorial known as Ishrat Hana (the House of Joy), built in Samarkand in the 60's of the 15th Century.

The clearing of the building, the opening of the big entrance to the tomb with its numerous women's and children's sepulchers, detailed architectural measurements and a study of the artistic decorations, make it possible completely to reconstruct the outward appearance of the memorial. An extensive monograph is being published on the subject.

The Babi-han mausoleum, built by the wife of the famous Tamerlane, has yielded a number of coffins, in one of which was found preserved the mummified corpse of a young wife, clad in the remnants of fabrics and ornaments.

The Chupanat (Patron of Shepherds) mausoleum near Samarkand has been examined. This building was erected by Tamerlane's grandson, Mirsa Ulug-bek, an outstanding scientist of his day. He is called "the Ptolemy of the Middle Ages." The excavations of the Ulug-bek observatory, suspended as long ago as 1914, have now been resumed and have yielded new material aiding the reconstruction of the original appearance of this memorial. It was a very big four-story building of fantastic contours. Archeological observations and immured coins of the year

A. D. 832 go to show that the building of the observatory began no earlier than that date.

For the first time the location of Tamerlane's "Nakshi-jekhan" garden, and Ulug-bek's "Begimai-lan" garden, with the remnants of the two-story marble palace of "Chilsutun," has been precisely established. The palace, several stories high, stood on a hillside. It was floored with figured slabs made of various types of stone such as white and gray marble, transparent greenish onyx and dark-green serpentine.

The decorations are superb. The mosaics must have been incomparable. The varnish over the tiled slabs was overlaid with a fresco of gold in the shape of a flowery ornament. During the excavations we found many splinters in variously colored glass which had fallen from alabaster fretwork window screens. The glass was red, violet, blue, yellow and various shades of green.

In the Gur-Emir tomb a special commission has completed the opening of the tombs of Tamerlane's dynasty, including that of the founder. On the basis of a study of the skulls found, a sculptural restoration has been made of the countenance of Tamerlane, his son Shakhrukh and his grandson Ulug-bek.

The parts of the Gur-Emir mausoleum that have been preserved are being cleared of later stratifications. On the extensive adjoining territory structural layers are being opened up as far as the 15th Century level. The materials yielded by the excavations will be used to restore the Gur-Emir mausoleum and the tomb of Tamerlane.

SHAKESPEARE HAS A "PRIORITY"

The study and translation of Shakespeare has remained a "priority" job in the USSR in wartime. In addition to translations of *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet*, the poet Boris Pasternak has made an excellent translation of *Antony and Cleopatra*, and Samuel Marshak has completed a fine rendering of the songs of the king's fool from *King Lear*.

Many translations of Shakespeare have been made in the languages of non-Russian people of the USSR. This year the Franko Theater in liberated Kiev will stage *Twelfth Night* in a new Ukrainian translation by Steshenko. The poet Lahuti is working on a translation of *Romeo and Juliet* into the Tajik language.

During the war *Othello* has been translated into the Chuvash tongue, and *Twelfth Night* into Kirghizian. The Tatar Academic Theater is preparing to stage *King Lear*.

Soviet students of Shakespeare closely follow the work of British and American Shakespearean specialists. The Shakespearean section of the All-Russian Theater Society has repeatedly discussed works by English and American students on the great poet. An interesting paper on the importance of Shakespeare in the struggle against fascism, read by Professor de Salo Pinto of Nottingham University at the Royal Society of Literature, attracted great attention among Soviet students of Shakespeare.

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The Great Judge

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Twenty-six years ago our people created the Red Army—created it to defend their country and freedom. Twenty-six years ago the first Red Army men defeated the German invaders at Pskov. At that time Soviet Union's defenders had no arms, no experience, no boots, no bread. They had only one thing: rage. And they checked the German hordes.

We are now beating the same enemy on the same

Pskov soil. But the Red Army has powerful war materiel, the best tanks the world knows, artillery which the Germans speak of in whispers. It has trench mortars, machine guns, tommy guns, splendid attack planes, experienced commanders, seasoned soldiers. The Red Army is beating the Germans and will beat them to the finish.

In wartime armaments are important, engines are



Soviet cavalry Field Nurse Lusya Nizova has saved the lives of many wounded, removing them from the battlefield under fire

important, strategy is important. But war's outcome is decided by people. The Germans prepared a long time for their campaigns. They seized Europe's raw materials. They forced the subjugated peoples to work for them. They have Krupp, Creusot and Skoda. They have their Tigers and their Panthers. They have their hundreds of generals who studied military science from their infancy. They have millions of trained soldiers.

Why, then, did they flee from Orel, Kharkov, Smolensk and Kiev? Why didn't their pillboxes around Leningrad save them? Why didn't the broad Dnieper save them? Why is it that, having invented pincers, they themselves are caught in the pincers' grip? And why, when they dreamed of encircling everything, do they find themselves encircled? Why is it that Germany already sees before her the red dawn of retribution?

The British paper, *The Evening Standard*, writes of the Red Army's victories: "People have overcome machines." It was the Soviet citizen who prevailed over the robot. It was conscience roused to indignation, it was pride and a sense of rightness that won. The Urals foundrymen won. The Siberian plowmen won. The Moscow worker won. The Soviet country won. Our men, with their quick wit and valor, won; our scouts, who can take any German alive; our infantrymen, who are undaunted by enemy fire; our artillerymen, tankmen and pilots; our camouflage experts, fearless sappers and signalmen—these won. Our commanders, with their cool heads and warm hearts, won; our generals, who displayed their skill at Stalingrad, Kastornaya, Taganrog and Zvenigorodka, won.

Our great captain won. He can build and he can fight. He held Moscow. He saved Leningrad. He will bring the Red Army to Berlin.

Nations think that land exists for the ripening of grain, for labor, for love. Germans think that land exists for pillage. Germans think that grainfields are for soldiers' boots. Germans think that children are for death vans. People want to live; Germans want to fight. People want to work; Germans want to rob. Every quarter of a century they set out on a march after other people's goods. An end must be put to this.

We didn't go to Germany for sausage. The black-guardly sausage-makers came to us, trampled our fields, burned our villages, disfigured our cities, put to death millions of guiltless people. They must be broken of the habit of making these "excursions."

Now we are going to them. We are on our way, and we shall arrive. We are not going after sausage, but after justice. Who will punish the child murderers? The Red Army.

In Babi Yar, in Kiev, the Germans slaughtered old people, women and children—slaughtered them for three days running. To save cartridges they flung children alive into their graves. One little girl cried out: "Why are you throwing sand in my eyes?" The child did not understand that she was being buried alive. She did not understand that the hangmen were only amusing themselves.

We hear that cry. We know that the earth of Poltava, Novgorod, Kharkov and Gomel have heard it. Are these child-murderers then to escape punishment? Are the punitive detachments and incendiaryists to get clear away? Are the Germans who drove girls into slavery going to live out their days peacefully in Dresden or Karlsruhe? Are the Germans who flung infants down wells going to return home and play games? Are Germans who tied old women to horses' tails going home to sniff flowers and turn on the phonograph?

They will change their guise, turn their coats if need be. They have plenty of loopholes, plenty of impudence. They'll weep and pray and bleat. They'll try to prove they had nothing to do with this. They'll find witnesses and advocates for their defense.

But they will not get away: they will be overtaken by the Red Army. The Red Army is a great judge: it is our angered conscience. It is in the Red Army that the Czechs and Serbs, the French and Norwegians, place their hopes. The Red Army will not stop halfway. When it has to make an end of something it makes an end of it.

And this must be an end that will not permit the Germans to start all over again after another quarter of a century. They must be broken of the habit of fighting. Their claws must be clipped, their fangs drawn. Peace must be restored to the world. Our children must never know what we have known. We have all known grief. The life of each has been cleft in twain. We shall never forget this. The Red Army is fighting for Russia, for our children, for peace and happiness.

Moscow was the front during the threatening days of 1941. Moscow stood fast. Moscow proved that it was indeed the Capital of a great power. Now Moscow will go to Berlin. Moscow will go there to win peace for itself and its country.

We are not celebrating victory: the enemy is not yet utterly beaten. He is a terrible enemy, dangerous when wounded. He must be beaten for good. We will clench our teeth and we will not ask "When?"—for when depends upon us. The more desperately we work, the sooner we shall have the Germans utterly beaten. It is time to finish with them. There will be neither breathing space nor rest nor respite: the war goes on. A little while yet and we shall win happiness.

SOVIET GUERRILLAS

By Colonel A. Konomenko

In the summer of 1941 the Hitlerite hordes were moving eastward: Ahead they saw visions of Moscow, of conquered "lebensraum," of a quick victory. Behind their lines the German army supplies were already going up in flames, bridges were crashing and military trains rolling down embankments. Hitlerite soldiers, passing burned motor cars and abandoned bodies on the rear roads, muttered to one another the brief explanation: "guerrillas."



On the Central Front—A ski detachment of guerrilla fighters returns from an operation

At first the Germans did not attach much importance to the guerrilla movement. How could a few lightly-armed individuals and groups pit themselves against the stupendous might of the German war machine? German generals contemptuously shrugged their shoulders. A few energetic measures, such as

the killing of local people, seemed enough to enforce perfect quiet in the rear. The Hitlerites had faith in the magic effect of ruthless cruelty. But the more cruel the invaders became, the faster grew the ranks of the People's Avengers.

In the plans of the German command, the main importance was attributed only to a one-dimensional front—its length. The guerrilla movement lent enormous importance to a second dimension—depth of the occupied zone. The Germans were compelled to guard vast areas in the rear and their lengthened communications. Large forces of the German army had to be diverted from the front for these purposes. The rear was no longer a rear. Countless small fronts formed far behind the forward lines. In every town and village the Germans felt as if they were besieged, as if they were in a ring of fire.

German losses as a result of guerrilla action mounted until they assumed huge proportions. In the first two years of the war the guerrillas exterminated over 300,000 Hitlerites, wrecked at least 3,000 trains, blew up or set fire to about 900 army stores of arms and ammunition, demolished 3,263 railway and other bridges, and destroyed hundreds of tanks, planes, artillery pieces, tank cars, armored cars and motor trucks.

The guerrilla movement assumed even wider proportions when the Red Army launched its successful offensive. The guerrillas intensified their activity not only far inside the occupied zone but in the immediate rear of the German army, harassing the retreating German troops by surprise attacks. They inflicted serious damage on Hitler's army by destroying railway communications. For example, during the Red Army's offensive in the Bryansk and Yaroslavl directions in September, 1943, the guerrillas in five days derailed 75 German troop trains, wrecking dozens of locomotives and over 1,000 boxcars and flat cars. In the Zhitomir Region the Germans made special efforts to guard an important section of the railway. Every kilometer of the line was patrolled by 30 to 40 Hitlerites with watch-dogs. At certain intervals the Germans ran an armored train back and forth over the line. In spite of this, German troop trains were constantly wrecked and traffic disrupted on this line.

Late in January, 1944, the Germans sent a regiment of SS troops with tank and artillery support to put an end to the activity of guerrilla detachments in the neighborhood of Rovno. The guerrillas attacked the punitive expedition in the forests near the city, routed it and destroyed the enemy tanks and artillery.

(Continued on page eight)

A Murderer and his Diary

By I. Chernyshev

German war prisoner Obergefreiter Heidenreich was quite talkative during the interrogation. He answered all questions in detail and at great length. Before the war he had worked as a roofer at Waldenburg; he was married and had a child. He claimed he was a pacifist and said: "I am sick of the war and have long been anxious to get out of this muck. But I'm a little man, and orders are orders."

Heidenreich tried to assume the pose of an ignorant and even stupid Fritz. And he played his part not badly, but the Russian officer who interrogated him knew quite well that it was all a farce, that the prisoner was a murderer who had with his own hands shot hundreds of Soviet civilians.

The Russian officer had before him the prisoner's diary. In it Heidenreich had drawn his own portrait and described his bandit adventures. Here are a few entries from this diary:

"Arrived in Minsk. The mission of our battalion is to guard prisoners of war and shoot all Jews in the city. During the night we dispatched 500 Jews alone.

"July 7—We marched on. Our objective was Krupki. With that as our base, our mission was to clear Kholopenichi, Voluber, Virki, Kurichenko and the adjoining villages. We divided into companies, surrounded the villages and set them on fire.

Volunteered to Murder

"October 5—In the evening the Lieutenant called for 15 men with strong nerves. I volunteered. Each one of us was asked whether he could stand the sight of blood. We all laughed. We were ordered to take along 300 rounds of ammunition each and to line up in front of company headquarters in our helmets the next morning at five o'clock. We waited for the morning with impatience.

"The Lieutenant explained our mission: there were about 1,000 Jews in Krupki and we were to shoot them that day. All the Jews—men, women and children—reported at an assembly spot. Lists were read and the whole column set out for a nearby marsh. The firing squad of which I was a member marched in front; an escorting squad marched on both sides, keeping watch. It was raining. The Jews had been told they would be sent to work in Germany, but many guessed what their fate was going to be, particularly when we crossed the railway embankment

and made for the march. Panic ensued and the guards had their hands full keeping the Jews herded.

"When we got to the marsh all the Jews were ordered to sit down, facing the side from which they had just come. About 50 meters away was a deep ditch filled with water. The first 10 Jews were stood up at the ditch and ordered to take off their clothes; the men remained in their trousers only and the women and children in their skirts. Then they were ordered to step into the ditch. We stood above, on the edge. The Lieutenant and one sergeant were with us. A volley was fired and 10 Jews gave up their ghosts. This went on until all were done for. The children clung to their mothers, the girls to their sweethearts. It was a sight! A few days later about the same number of Jews were shot at Kholopenichi. I was in it, too. There was no marsh there, only a sand pit into which we piled the Jews."

All this was written in Obergefreiter Heidenreich's own hand in his diary, which bore the title, "My Experiences in Russia."

Hitlerite Army—School for Executioners

It was in a German school and in a "Hitler jugend" organization of young misanthropists and cutthroats that Heidenreich got his first "education" along the lines indicated in his diary. The finishing touches were given by the German-fascist army, that "mass school" for executioners. There he became a professional murderer.

Former roofer Heidenreich, who was promoted to the rank of top corporal, willingly killed innocent women, men, youth, girls, mothers and children. Heidenreich killed his victims pitilessly and in cold blood. After these wholesale executions this murderer sat down to his diary, and with hands dripping with blood punctiliously recorded the scenes of the extermination of innocent Soviet civilians.

Heidenreich and his diary fell separately into Soviet hands. When the situation became hopeless, Heidenreich, seeing no chance of destroying it, threw the diary away. In captivity the executioner donned the mask of a humble pacifist. The bloodthirsty wolf tried to pose as an innocent lamb. He was in a hurry to get to a camp for war prisoners and there to bide his time until the war was over. He was certain no one would ever learn of his crimes.

But there was his diary. When it was presented to its author, murderer Heidenreich realized that he stood accused by his own writings.

These three photographs, taken by the Nazis themselves, were found on a German soldier taken prisoner in the Ukraine

Two Soviet civilians are marched to their death. In the front row is an old farmer, his hands tied behind his back. Behind, surrounded by soldiers, is a woman in a long sheep-skin coat



An old farmer and a farm woman are about to be executed by German soldiers



Bodies of Soviet civilians hanged by the Nazis



LENINGRAD LOOKS BACK

By Olga Bergholtz

It is unusually peaceful in Leningrad today. And as our hearts thrill with pleasure at the serenity of the city streets, it seems hardly credible that death and destruction no longer threaten us. Moreover, when we realize that it is not just a few moments of tortuous, foreboding silence between enemy shellings, we feel like laughing and crying with joy—and are above all impelled to perform some noble and worthy action.

* * *

On the night of January 22, Leningrad was still being shelled severely. Listening carefully we could easily detect that the shots came from one siege gun, firing at intervals of from 12 to 15 minutes at the same target, and of course with heavy shells. At nights the Germans usually resorted to heavy shelling and high-explosive bombs, in order to get at the people behind thick walls. Right up till dawn, every 15 minutes, the city echoed with thunderous blasts and the sound of crumbling buildings.

It was particularly painful to know that the enemy could still continue to wreak havoc in the city when Soviet troops had already captured Krasnoye Selo, Ropsha, Strelna, Uritsk and Duderhof—places from which the enemy bombardment had been particularly fierce—and were pushing forward, fighting for Pushkin and Gatchina. We knew the enemy was being stormed and crushed, that Germans who had been pounding at Leningrad for many months were now breathing their last. Yet somewhere in the gloom and cold of night stood one last siege gun, whose fire reached the very heart of the city. And Germans whose hours were numbered were still preying in their sordid, inhuman fashion upon the triumphant city, trying to wrest another few victims from its bosom.

On the morning of January 25, however, with several colleagues from the Radio Committee, I took part in a broadcast from the liberated town of Pushkin, near the very place from which the siege gun had shelled Leningrad on January 22.

* * *

Now it is quiet in our city. On the sunny side of the Neva, the "dangerous side," little children are playing safely. The people of Leningrad are experiencing that exhilarating sensation of return to normal life which cannot be compared with anything on earth. Every trifle connected with this return makes us feel elated; it speaks of the victory of life over death.

Only a short while ago, when we wanted to see the film *In October*, on the sunny side of the Nevsky,

we had to grope our way through a dreary back passage. Today we proudly enter the building by the front entrance. The streetcar stops which had been shifted because of the enemy bombardment have been reestablished in their former places. This may seem a trifle in a great city, but to us it signifies that death-dealing enemy shells will no longer fall into the midst of crowds waiting for cars, that there are no more enemy guns in our vicinity, that the blockade is completely ended.

Perhaps only now, in the serene quiet of our present days, will the life we led during the last 30 months rise up before us in all its grim and incredible reality. On that memorable evening—January 27—when the victory salute was fired in our city, we felt most keenly the ordeals we had suffered in embattled Leningrad. The happy rumor spread through the city: "Tonight we're going to salute our victorious troops!" Meanwhile, on Nevsky and Liteinaya streets, young girls of the air raid precaution groups were removing the ugly sand-filled boxes covering the shop windows.

Toward eight o'clock in the evening the whole city flocked into the streets. "Attention! An important announcement will be made in Leningrad," came the voice of loudspeakers around which the citizens were gathered in happy anticipation. And when the announcer, stressing each word, began the Order of the Day, motormen stopped their cars to give the passengers a chance to hear the momentous words.

In an unbroken and ecstatic silence the people listened. Where I stood, in the midst of a crowd, not a sound was to be heard. Only when the announcer had finished, a woman's voice muted in rapturous excitement said "Hurrah!" At that very instant 324 guns volleyed, and thousands of vari-colored rockets illuminated the bleak January sky.

Suddenly Leningrad emerged from the gloom before our gaze. For the first time in two and one-half years we beheld our city in light. To the last crack in its walls Leningrad was revealed to us—shell-pitted, bullet-riddled, scarred Leningrad, with its plywood windowpanes. Scarred, yet stern and superb! And we saw that despite all the cruel slashes and blows, Leningrad retained its proud beauty. In the bluish, roseate, green and white of the lights, and the thunder of the salute, the city appeared to us so austere and touching we could not feast our eyes long enough upon it—the city where we had suffered so much and where we were now rewarded with the great and exalting happiness of victory.

Strangers embraced, tears glistened in everyone's eyes. One aged woman tugged at the sleeve of a man next to her, inquiring eagerly, "Can they hear our

salute on the 'mainland'? Do they know in Russia, on the 'mainland,' how overjoyed we are?"

"Of course they can!"—a young lad shouted above the thunder of the guns. "And remember, we're now a part of the mainland ourselves." And we all knew full well that our fellow citizens on the mainland heard our salute and shared our joy, just as they had shared our grief in the troubled days of the blockade. A young girl grasped the hand of a soldier standing near her, and exclaimed, "Thank you—thank you all—for this!" The uniformed man answered in a subdued, almost solemn voice, "We are just as grateful to you, Leningrad civilians."



Leningrad children adding up the money they have collected for tank construction

Indeed, it is with an inexhaustible gratitude that the Leningraders speak of their armies, which have already advanced a long way beyond the city's boundaries. There is perhaps no city in the Soviet Union where there exists such a strong kinship between the fighting men and civilians. This of course is because the Leningrad armies for two and one-half years defended the city with an indomitable will and endured with the civilians the untold hardships of the blockade. Many hundreds of soldiers shared their meager food rations with the city's starving children and sick women in the first gruesome winter of the blockade.

The people of Leningrad are fully aware at what a cost the armies of the Leningrad Front defended the beleaguered city and raised the blockade in January, 1943. Nor have they any illusions as to the amount of noble blood that was shed to win the victory of today.

Thus, no sooner had the first wounded from the field arrived in Leningrad hospitals than thousands of the city's working women and housewives came to attend them. After a long working day, abandoning their homes and families, they came. And they were

the most affectionate and tender nurses in the world. Each of the women had some little gift, some trifle—an embroidered towel or napkin, a cup, even a soap-dish—to give to her soldier patriots. And these were not things that could be easily spared; they were needed at home. Yet the people could not refrain from giving some token of their gratitude.

Thousands of Leningrad citizens besieged the hospitals and blood transfusion centers to give blood for their saviors. Hundreds of donors requested that their blood be taken again, before the permitted time.

* * *

The offensive on the Leningrad Front continues, relentless and unceasing. In the two and one-half years of the blockade, the hearts of Leningrad's defenders have been filled to overflowing with wrath at all the havoc wrought to their city and its population. There is only one way to quench this wrath—to exact due retribution.

On the Leningrad Front, the first question asked by Red Army men of anyone who has just come from the city is: "Tell us exactly how they are taking the news of victory. We want to know all the details." And they like to hear them repeated by each new arrival: that the car-stops have been reestablished, the "danger" signs removed, etc.

As to the Germans . . . Every one of those taken prisoner shouted, "I never shot at Leningrad!" The fear-crazed Nazis in Krasnoye Selo swore they had always been against shelling Leningrad.

"We even quarreled with our artillerymen," they claimed, "we pleaded with them to leave Leningrad alone, begged them not to shoot—because in the first place the fire was always returned by the Leningrad batteries and that took a heavy toll of us. . . . Besides, our artillery would very often start shelling just for fun. The men would get dead drunk and someone would say, 'Come on, let's get the Leningrad dames out of their beds,' and off would go the siege guns. We tried to make them see reason—we told them . . . 'Leningrad won't forgive. . . .'"

In this the Germans were right. Leningrad will not forgive . . . never! And when I reflect upon the truly exceptional endurance of this city, which had been doomed by Hitler to "devour itself"—I remember the words of the workers of the Kirov Red Putilov works: "We'll scare death, before death will ever scare us!" They wrote these words in an appeal to all Leningrad citizens in the crucial month of September, 1941.

At that time, when the Germans had captured Strelina and were pushing on to the Red Putilov plant itself, those words sounded like a solemn oath. Now we see that they were prophetic: death did not scare Leningrad, but Leningrad gave death a scare.

Krivoi Rog Workers Return

The following article is by Alexei Semivolos, well-known Krivoi Rog driller, who has been awarded a Stalin prize and is famous for his work in the mining industry:

Before the war millions of tons of especially high-grade iron ore were mined in Krivoi Rog. When the fascists launched their attack against the Soviet Union, one of the main blows was directed against this rich mining area, long an object of the imperialist greed of the German industrialists. On the day after the occupation of the mining center, representatives of the "Herman Goering Werke," headed by "Doctor" Lelich, arrived in the city, ready to exploit the Krivoi Rog mines and plants.

But the battle for Krivoi Rog did not end with its occupation by enemy troops. For the two and one-half years of the German rule, the struggle was waged without let-up.

The main mass of workers, engineers and technicians—many of whom had worked in the Krivoi Rog mines for years—left their homes and withdrew with the Red Army, taking with them the equipment of the mines and plants. In new locations, under difficult conditions, they worked for the defense of their country.

But those miners who for various reasons did not leave Krivoi Rog, refused to work for the enemy. They left their homes and hid in the villages, concealing their skills from the Germans and preferring to undergo any sufferings rather than to work for the enemy. The Nazis took every measure to mobilize

the few skilled workers remaining, to open the dead mines and plants. Rounding up the miners they brought them to the pits under armed escorts. But nothing came of it—the miners and metallurgists could not be forced to become German slaves.

Krivoi Rog—one of the busiest industrial centers in the USSR before the war—was dead. Whenever the Germans managed to restore and begin operating any enterprise, the workers and engineers, at the risk of their lives, immediately put the machinery out of action. On the day the Germans announced that the first coal would be mined at a certain pit, the workers flooded it. For six months the Nazis labored to pump the mine dry—then it mysteriously caved in.

When the Red Army broke through beyond the Dnieper I returned to the Krivoi Rog area, where I found burned towns and wrecked mines and plants. The famous "First of May" mine, one of the largest in the country, was in ruins. Workers' dwellings were also destroyed.

But despite all the havoc wrought by the German criminals in our Krivoi Rog, the fires had hardly cooled when workers, engineers and technicians began streaming in from all parts of the country. They had been longing for their beloved work, and they are already achieving miracles—assembling machines literally bolt by bolt, digging up buried equipment and rusted machinery and reconditioning it.

It will not be long before Krivoi Rog has recovered from the German occupation and is again supplying our country from its wealth.

SOVIET GUERRILLAS

(Continued from page three)

Cooperating with regular Red Army troops the guerrilla detachments continually harry German troops, cut off their roads of retreat, attack retreating German columns, prevent the Hitlerites from setting fire to or blowing up factories, monuments of culture and homes; rescue Soviet citizens from deportation to Germany, and defend them against fascist terrorism and pillage. In November, 1941, when the Red Army launched an attack on the town of Cherkassy in the Ukraine, the bold action of guerrillas, who with Soviet parachute troops attacked the enemy from the rear, contributed to the successful crossing of the Dnieper by Soviet troops.

The action of guerrillas contributed a great deal to the success of the Red Army's offensive in the

Western Ukraine. During the offensive in the Sarny direction in January, 1944, guerrillas acting with regular Red Army units captured a number of points north of the Sarny station. It was in cooperation with the guerrillas operating on the roadless, wooded and marshy terrain that the Red Army captured the important railway junction of Sarny, where they found rich booty and liberated several thousand Soviet citizens who were about to be shipped to Germany.

In the past year the Red Army has recovered about two-thirds of the territory seized by the Germans and delivered millions of Soviet people from German bondage. By their selfless struggle the Soviet guerrillas have rendered the Red Army invaluable aid. They are the worthy assistants of the Red Army in its fight to rout the Hitlerite troops and liberate Soviet territory from the German invaders.

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The Red Army's Winter Campaign

By Lieutenant Colonel V. Kravtsov

The climatic and natural conditions of the present winter campaign on the Soviet-German front differ considerably from those under which the Red Army fought during the preceding winters. This circumstance has laid its imprint on the entire course of operations and is expressed in a certain peculiarity of operational tactical forms.

Part from the section from Velikie Luki to Leningrad, the Soviet-German front has shifted far west-

ward. From the forests of the Moscow area, the rolling Don and Kuban steppes, the foothills of the Caucasus and the everglades of the Taman Peninsula, the battlefield has moved to forest and swamp districts and to the Ukrainian fields west of the Dnieper. On sectors where the front had been stable before this winter, as in Leningrad and Novgorod, the nature of the operations of Soviet troops has taken a sharp turn: from stubborn defense they have gone over to resolute offensive.



A Soviet cavalry liaison officer receives a dispatch to be delivered to advanced units

Whereas in the winter of 1943 only one-third of the front line passed through the forests and swamps of the Smolensk, Kalinin and Leningrad Regions, now the opposite is true. Most of the fighting in the present winter campaign is proceeding in swampy and wooded terrain, with less than one-third of the Soviet-German front in open country.

Lacking in good roads, the swampy woodland is highly inconvenient for the conduct of major operations. Since the heavy machines of modern war for the most part cannot negotiate country roads, large troop formations must operate chiefly along highways. At the same time, the swampy wooded terrain creates highly advantageous conditions for defense, since to render an area inaccessible to the enemy all that is required is a firm hold on the roads and defiles between lakes and swamps. In this sort of terrain the use of artillery and tanks as the main spearhead of a force paving the way for advancing infantry is greatly limited. Here the main burden falls on the infantry.

In general, in this difficult theater winter is the best time of year to develop operations on a broad scale. With rivers and lakes ice-bound and swamps frozen, advancing troops can penetrate to lightly-defended gaps in the enemy's defenses and all types of fighting machines can pass over the hardened country roads.

Of course, winter operations—particularly in the severe Russian winter with its frosts frequently reaching 30 to 40 degrees below zero Centigrade, and snowstorms sometimes lasting several days—are not at all easy to conduct. Hampering the movements of the fighting men are their heavy warm winter uniforms and the deep snows.

But it is not alone the men, with their various forms of fighting equipment, who must be adapted for winter conditions. Field pieces—machine guns and mortars, for example—are mounted on sleighs and skis; fixtures for increasing mobility are attached to motor vehicles, and tank and aircraft engines must be heated, as well as oil and water.

The late and warm winter of this year brought the Red Army other difficulties perhaps even more grave. Usually in the European part of the Soviet Union the winter is firmly established in the second half of November, and continues with a mean temperature of 10 to 15 degrees below zero Centigrade until the end of February or the beginning of March. But this year the winter has been marked by unusual mildness and a large amount of precipitation.

Between November and the middle of February there were slight frosts, with the temperature rarely dropping even to five degrees below zero, alternating with frequent thaws; the January mean tempera-

ture was close to zero. As a result rivers, lakes and swamps were covered with only a thin layer of ice. When hidden by snow, this became at every step a trap for the advancing units. Even more dangerous are the snow-covered swamps, where an incautious step away from the road may send a man crashing through a thin layer of ice into quicksand. Water from melting snows saturates the earth; the roads, particularly in the lowlands, are a gummy mass of mud and snow in which carts and motor vehicles become mired.

Despite all these difficulties of terrain and weather, the Red Army is continuing its offensive and steadily moving west. It is due to the adapting of its operations to natural conditions that the Red Army has achieved these successes. In forests and swamps where it is difficult for large troop formations to operate, an important role is played by small mobile detachments of skiers. After the enemy's defenses have been breached, these detachments rush into the gaps, and operating in areas between strongpoints cut the enemy's communication lines and paralyze his rear services.

On other sectors of the front the cavalry has found extensive application. Much more mobile under given conditions than the infantry, it enters a breach after the tanks, consolidates their success and holds the captured terrain until the arrival of advanced infantry columns—as was the case in the encirclement of the Korsun-Shevchenkivsky grouping of Germans, and in the Rovno direction.

This winter the Soviet tanks, which surpass the Germans in maneuverability, have also been equal to their tasks. Where natural conditions permit, they are used en masse; the thaws in the Ukraine did not prevent them from being first to close the ring around the Germans in the Korsun-Shevchenkivsky district.

Where the mass employment of tanks is limited by natural conditions, the Soviet Command is successfully using mobile groups, consisting of tank units reinforced by tank-borne tommy gunners or ski troops. Such units, which are not only highly mobile but constitute a significant striking force, easily break through small gaps in the enemy's front, and infiltrating his territory, cut his communications, capture strongpoints and depth defenses, bridges, river crossings and advantageous lines, and hold them until the arrival of our main forces. These mobile units act in accordance with the developing situation—in some cases tanks and infantry attack a strongpoint together; in others, they part temporarily to carry out separate tasks.

In the difficult conditions of the 1943-44 winter campaign, the Red Army has demonstrated once more that it can shatter the enemy in any theater and in any weather.

WHY THE LITHUANIANS ARE FIGHTING

By Major General Vladas Karvelis

The Soviet-German war has now been going on for 32 months. In this war we Lithuanians are fighting in the ranks of the Red Army, united in the Lithuanian national formation, of which I have the honor to be commander. I know that people abroad often ask why we Lithuanians are fighting against the Germans, and what we are fighting for. I want to answer these questions here.

Lessons of the Past

Anyone at all acquainted with Lithuanian history knows that approximately 700 years ago the peaceable Lithuanian people was faced with the threat of extermination. The German Order of the Crusaders, which had with fire and sword seized the lands of the Pruss (a tribe akin to the Lithuanians) and wiped out the entire tribe, began to make numerous forays into Lithuania. The Crusaders intended to deal with the Lithuanians as they had done with the Pruss. The Lithuanian Princes, Gediminas, Kestutis, Vitautas and others, offered determined resistance to the Germans. In this struggle they often asked help of the Russian and Byelorussian troops. The victory which Grand Prince Vitautas and his allies gained at Gruenwald put a stop for a long time to German attempts to seize Lithuania, to colonize it and incorporate it into their Reich.

They began to put this plan into effect during the period of German occupation in 1914-18. The French General Nissel, who in 1918 acted as representative of the Entente Powers in the Baltic countries, stated that even after the overthrow of the Kaiser, Germany had made every effort to maintain her hold on Lithuania. We Lithuanians saw this at every step, and that was why we rose to fight the German invaders.

Three Attempts

Although they lost the war of 1914-18, the Germans never gave up the idea of seizing Lithuania at the first favorable opportunity. This danger constantly stared Lithuania in the face from 1933, after Hitler's accession to power. In 1934 General Kuiljunas organized a putsch with the help of the Hitlerites, the aim of which was to annex Lithuania to Germany. The putsch failed. Then the German imperialists set out to put their plans into effect piecemeal. In 1938 Hitler grabbed the Klaiped district. In 1938 the German ambassador to Lithuania, Dr. Zechlin, told the Lithuanian journalist G.: "There is only one road for Lithuania—to join the Third Reich."

The Germans in Klaiped openly boasted they would soon come to Kaunas. These statements were rein-

forced by such strong arguments as the concentration of large military forces on the borders of our state. The Lithuanians had to give serious thought to the question of what to do next, what road to choose.

The Traditional Road

The best sons of Lithuania chose the traditional road of friendship with the Russian people. Lithuania joined the family of Soviet nations on the basis of equality, and thus secured for herself the support of all the peoples of the Soviet Union, and in the first place of the great Russian people. This was the only correct road to save Lithuania from the imminent doom Hitler had in store for our people. This was the only road which guaranteed Lithuania full independence and every opportunity for economic and cultural progress. The present Patriotic War has shown that this road was correct.

On June 22, 1941, when Hitler treacherously attacked the Soviet Union and launched his "drive to the East," his first thrusts were aimed at Lithuania. Lithuanians, fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army units stationed in our country, barred the way to the German hordes. At Svengionis, Varena and Vilnius the Lithuanians dealt the Germans severe blows. Heavily outnumbered by enemy forces, they were compelled to retreat farther into the Soviet Union. The Lithuanians gave a fine account of themselves in 1941 in defensive fighting at Pustoshki, Nevel, Velikie Luki and Smolensk.

In December, 1941 the Lithuanian national formation in the Red Army was created. Numerous cadres of excellent Lithuanian officers were trained. To the previous traditions of Lithuanians in the struggle against the Germans were added the fighting traditions of the valiant Red Army, which has grown into the greatest military force in the world. The Lithuanian units received the most up-to-date weapons and began anew the determined struggle against the German invaders.

At Orel—for Vilnius and Kaunas

In the fighting in the Orel salient in the summer of 1943 the Lithuanian units demonstrated that they are worthy descendants of their brave ancestors, Gediminas, Kestutis and Vitautas. Never in their entire history had the Lithuanians taken part in such great battles as at Orel. They annihilated over 13,000 Germans, and on their sector of the front hurled the

(Continued on page six)

SOVIET CAVALRY BEHIND THE GERMAN LINES

By Evgeny Krieger

During the first months of the war the Germans ascribed a magic power to the word encirclement. This word no longer exists in the vocabulary of our soldiers. But the Germans have now acquired a mortal fear of encirclement.

In the days when mad fear compelled the Germans in the Korsun-Shevchenkivsky district to toss about in a tightening ring of Russian troops, a Soviet Guards cavalry unit in a distant sector of the front made a breach in the German defense line and set off on a deep raid through the German rear. Every man in the unit knew he would have to fight inside the German front, completely isolated from our main forces, along roads which the Germans could intercept and cut at any moment. But the Guardsmen had behind them the Battle of Stalingrad, the attack at Kharkov, the glory of the Desna and the fame of the Dnieper.

The path was difficult, and in addition the weather was frightful. Snow alternated with rain. The swollen earth greedily sucked down the wheels of guns and vehicles. The cavalymen left on the other side of the front everything that could hamper their movements and maneuvers—motorcars and heavy transport vehicles of the rear services—taking along only the most necessary equipment, mainly guns and light transports.

Driving a wedge into the German front, sweeping away small centers of resistance in their path and taking fortified villages by storm, the cavalry squadrons headed due west. After covering about 80 kilometers they turned sharply to the south, toward Rovno. Behind them, collapsing under frontal pressure, came columns of retreating Germans. Sometimes the engagements were quick and final, sometimes difficult and drawn-out, but the peculiarity of all was that they were fought deep inside the German front, which was breaking up under the onslaught of our main forces.

Many times, after capturing a large village straight from the march, our advance squadrons would gallop on ahead, and a few hours later their supply carts, hurrying after them, would encounter retreating German troops in the same village. Then the drivers had to get their carts through by cunning or boldness, under the very noses of the Germans—sometimes by forest detours, or, if it was night, by driving straight through the village.

It sometimes happened, too, that a detachment of Guardsmen which had fallen behind would overtake a large enemy cavalry column in utter darkness and calmly attach themselves to it, trailing along until one of the dozing horsemen muttered something in an in-

comprehensible tongue, whereupon the Guardsmen would discover they were with the Germans. In such cases our daredevils never lost their heads, but continued with the column until the first cross-roads, where they would quietly wait until the Germans had passed, then either escape safely—or if they had the advantage, raise such panic among the enemy by sudden fire that in two minutes only dead Fritzes would remain on the road. In the deep German rear our cavalymen often captured groups of Germans, whom they took along with them.

The aim of the Guardsmen in their raids was to appear suddenly, from a totally unexpected direction, near towns behind the German lines, and take them with few casualties. Now that the mission has been successfully completed, the General who headed the fantastically daring operation only tells of the amusing incidents, keeping modestly silent about the difficulties and spectacular successes.

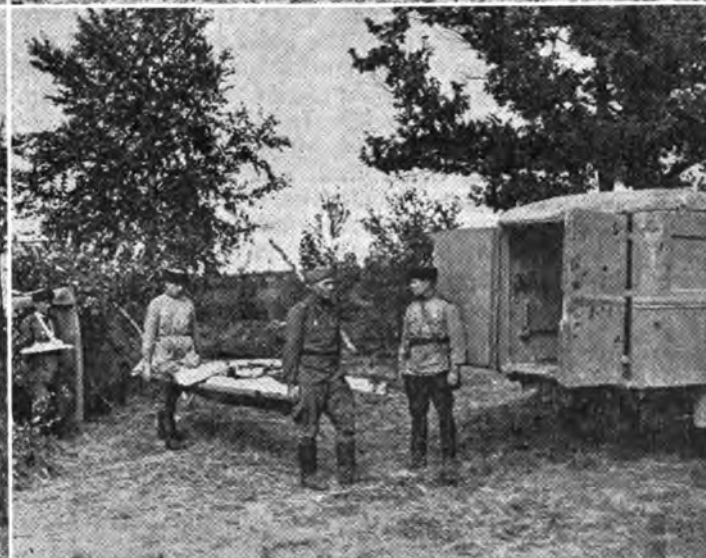
For example, he recalls the night he stopped to rest in a village, quietly worked with his staff and even found time for a little sleep—only to discover in the morning that the Germans had set up their division headquarters in the adjoining village, separated from him only by a small gully.

On another night the General was infuriated by the spectacle of an automobile speeding through a village which he had occupied, with every headlight on, contrary to all rules of behavior in the enemy rear. He shouted to the commandant: "What the devil do you mean by letting your radio station run around with lights on? Stop them!"

The Guardsmen rushed after the car and halted it. The German gendarmerie officer inside was no less surprised than they: he had come to the village in blissful ignorance, looking for a place to spend the night.

The General was particularly pleased with the work of the transport service. Thirty-two carts loaded with shells were sent after the cavalry, which had moved far ahead. Because of washed-out roads, the carts had to be drawn by oxen. The cavalymen tried to hurry the slow animals by continuous "Giddaps." A number of times they encountered groups of German troops retreating from the east along the road by which our Guardsmen had recently passed; at other times they ran into German garrisons, from which they extricated themselves heaven only knows how.

Ten days had passed since the cavalymen had been told by radio that ammunition was on its way in ox-drawn carts. They had given up all hope, certain the transport was lost. Then, at the approaches



(Upper) Commanders of the Sixth Guards Cavalry Corps; (center) Besides the most modern equipment, the cavalry has its horse-drawn machine-gun carts; (lower) Gun crew of the Sixth Guards Cavalry Corps

(Upper) A cavalry charge; (center) Dismounted cavalrymen fight at the approaches to a German-held inhabited locality; (lower) A traveling field hospital behind the German lines

to a town they were besieging, the Guardsmen heard from the road a melancholy "Giddap"—and the transport hove in sight.

This seemed nothing less than a miracle—the drivers had covered 150 kilometers in the German rear without losing a single cart. The Guardsmen entered the besieged town, behind the German lines, with light casualties—and the victory was saluted in Moscow by cannon salvos.

During these same days the ten picked German

divisions tossed in their tightening ring, maddened by the now terrible word for the Germans—encirclement—a word which meant doom and destruction for them.

Today the banners of Stalingrad fly beyond the Dnieper, in Volyn, where the war began. The Soviet Army has returned victorious to this place. After the great trials of the war, it has succeeded in adding two new forces to its staunchness and valor—experience and maturity.

LITHUANIANS

(Continued from page three)

enemy back 120 kilometers to the west, taking revenge for the plunder of their native land, for the murder of innocent people. They went into battle with the watchword: "For our country—for Soviet Lithuania! For Vilnius and Kaunas!"

The Lithuanians fought so bravely and successfully they were twice cited by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Stalin, and over 3,000 Lithuanian fighters were decorated with orders and medals. Now, on the fields of Byelorussia, the Lithuanian soldiers are continuing the fight for their country.

We Are Not Alone—and We Shall Win

Every man in the Lithuanian units is certain of the justice of our struggle, certain of our victory. Every people must itself achieve its freedom, for only then will it be able to properly defend it. We Lithuanians know, however, that we cannot overcome the enemy in single combat. The Lithuanian warrior, whether he served in the old Lithuanian army (as I did, and some of my comrades also), or joined the Red Army during the present war, knows that the Lithuanian people can only achieve victory together with the other peoples of the Soviet Union.

We are fighting with all the Soviet peoples for their freedom, just as they are fighting for our freedom. In this joint struggle we have come to know each other and have become close friends. No friendship can be stronger than that which springs up on the battlefield. Marching along the road chosen by our people in 1940, we will win and will achieve true happiness for our country.

Some of the finest Lithuanian patriots, who did not succeed in getting away before the German occupation, have formed guerrilla detachments and by destroying Germans and their war materiel are helping us. Large numbers of Lithuanians, despite the cruel reign of terror, are sabotaging German orders. Through the fire and thunder of the guns at the front we hear our brothers call for help. And we are hastening—convinced that this is the last fight for

the liberation of the Lithuanian people. We are sure that after the victory, with the help of other Soviet peoples, we will quickly heal the wounds inflicted by the war and will build a rich and cultured Soviet Lithuania. We will create a well-armed Lithuanian army, capable of defending the frontiers of our country against every encroachment.

"Air Sniper" Downs 37th German Plane

Hero of the Soviet Union Major Vasili Golubev, who heads the list of fighter pilots of the Fleet Air Arm for the number of shot-down enemy planes, scored his 37th victory not long ago. This was a German scout plane, a Messerschmitt 110, which attempted to photograph the movements of advancing troops of the Leningrad Front.

Golubev sighted the enemy at about 4,500 meters altitude, immediately after taking off from the air-drome. Striving to preserve the advantage in altitude in the coming combat, the German climbed to 6,000 meters but the next moment the splendid Russian LA-5 fighter plane was already above him.

Vasili Golubev had long been called an air sniper for his rare ability to hit any part of the enemy plane he chooses. He dealt with his 37th victim in sniper manner also: the first machine gun burst hit the Messerschmitt's gunner, the second put its left engine out of commission, and after the third burst aimed at the right engine the German plane rolled over and plummeted to the ground, leaving a trail of smoke.

Golubev has spent an entire year on the aerial approaches to Leningrad, where he won his first victory over a German bomber in August, 1941, when he was still a green young flier. He defended Leningrad from aerial attacks during the most difficult blockade weeks and protected automobile columns carrying food on the ice road across Lake Ladoga. In the engagements for Leningrad he became a famed ace, was decorated with four orders and finally the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. At present Golubev is in command of a fighter regiment of the Fleet Air Arm, but very often takes off to meet the enemy like a rank and file flier.

Career of a Soviet Woman

By Irina Grekova

When I visited Valentina Khetagurova in her office recently, I found her very easy to talk with. This youthful and attractive woman with the warm smile and firm handclasp is in charge of the department of the Soviet Government responsible for the welfare of the families of Red Army men at the front. She formerly worked in the Far Eastern part of the Soviet Union, and is famous as the initiator of the "Khetagurova movement" of young girls who volunteered to serve their country by going to that distant area to help in its development. But here is her story in her own words:



In a children's nursery in liberated Kharkov

Radiophoto

"I was born in 1904. Everything I have was given me by the October Revolution which enabled me to get an education. I was born in Leningrad, where my father was a worker, and went to grade school there. Later I took evening courses in a technical school, and then worked as a draftsman in a scientific research institute.

"In 1932 we heard of the development of the Soviet Far Eastern territory, where factories and cities were being built in the wilds. The idea of working there

appealed to me, and I joined a party of seven boys and three girls leaving for Khabarovsk. We had asked to be sent to the most distant spot. This turned out to be a deserted bay, amid impassable marshy forests. The winters were terribly severe—the summers all too short. We lived in dugouts until we could build wooden barracks.

"In 1933 I married Khetagurov, a Red Army officer, and went to live at the frontier. Since that time my life has been closely bound up with that of the Red Army. There were 12 of us wives of commanders, and we all tried to be useful and to make our stay there of service to the Red Army men. Their greatest difficulty was laundry—and we decided to do their washing ourselves. We also cleaned and took care of the barracks, and tried to make the men and officers more comfortable. In our spare time and in the evenings, we organized reading circles and music and dramatic groups. While I was living there, my little girl was born.

"In 1936 I was sent as a delegate to the All-Union Conference of Wives of Red Army Commanders, held in Moscow. This gave us all fresh stimulus and strength for our work. I wrote to all the papers describing my work in that vast and wonderful country where people were so badly needed. And I made an appeal to the girls of the USSR to come out.

"The response that followed far exceeded my dreams. It became a real mass movement, and they gave it my name, although what I had done as one of the first to go to the Far East could have been done by any Soviet girl.

"Those who replied through the newspapers and in person came from all professions. They asked advice as to where they should go, and wanted to know all the details about life and work there. This was the time when the city of Komsomolsk was being built, and a great many went there. They did splendid work in helping to develop the country, and we saw our modest initiative followed up by thousands of girls.

"In 1937 I was elected Deputy to the Supreme Soviet from this same city of Komsomolsk, which we took part in building in the wild forests.

"Some time later my husband was transferred to Moscow and I returned with him and entered a machine tool institute as a student. Then the war broke out and my husband went to the front. The needs of families of Red Army men became my chief care. This is my contribution toward our fight. My whole heart is in the work, and I almost feel that I am actually in the ranks of the Red Army—with our men who are fighting for victory."

Leningrad Speed Skater Wins USSR Title

Nikolai Petrov, representative of the Zenith Sports Club of a Leningrad armaments plant, won the title of absolute champion of USSR in a speed-skating tournament recently held on the ice lanes of the Dynamo Stadium in Moscow. The new champion is one of the best speed skaters and cyclists in the Soviet Union.

The victory of Nikolai Petrov at the recent speed-skating tournament, which attracted 13 of the champions of the USSR and 15 other leading athletes, is sufficient proof of the unbending determination of the Leningraders to be first in everything, at all times.

The All-Union championship meet held two weeks ago by the Soviet trade unions was also won by Nikolai Petrov, while Lydia Chernova was the best in the women's races. The latter, incidentally, was awarded the "Leningrad Defense" medal before she left for the contest.

With several exceptions, practically the best speed skaters in the USSR gathered at the Dynamo Stadium for a two-day meet to compete for the Soviet title. Chernova and Petrov won the Leningrad city championship races in January, which started under the thunder of artillery barrages smashing German positions in the vicinity of Peterhof and Pushkin.

The tournament opened with a 500-meter race for women. The best time in this event was shown by M. Valovova, champion sprinter from Gorky, who was clocked in 50.2 seconds. Zoya Kholshchevnikova of Moscow was second, with 50.9 seconds. The second event for women, a 3,000-meter race, was won by Maria Isakova, holder of the world record in speed-skating. She covered the distance in five minutes, 56 seconds.

The 500-meter race for men was bitterly fought between Ivan Anikanov, absolute champion of the USSR for 1943, and K. Kudryavtsev, Soviet speed king, who holds the present All-Union record of 42 seconds flat. The latter took the event in 45.2 seconds.

Another keen battle took place in the 5,000-meter contest between Nikolai Petrov and I. Ippolitov, of Moscow. Ivan Anikanov was second in this race.

The last event for men was the 10,000-meter marathon. Still ahead in points, Anikanov raced in the same pair with Petrov. The Leningrad speed skater finished a full lap ahead of the 1943 champion. The winning time was 18 minutes, 5.7 seconds. Victorious in three successive events, Nikolai Petrov was crowned USSR champion for 1944.

Competition was just as keen among the women skaters. Leading in points after the first two events, Maria Isakova started the second day brilliantly, capturing first place in the 1,000-meter race in one minute, 45.3 seconds. This victory put her one full point ahead of her nearest challenger, Kholshchevnikova. Yet the decision came in the last event for women, the 5,000-meter race. Kholshchevnikova put on great speed in the last lap and beat Isakova by almost 10 seconds, which were sufficient to surpass



Ivan Anikanov, skating champion of the USSR

Isakova's point total. The absolute champion title went to Kholshchevnikova.

Among those who took part in the jubilee meet was Jacob Melnikov, veteran speed-skating star of Russia who arrived for the contest direct from the front lines. Melnikov held the USSR title for 11 consecutive years beginning in 1915.

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Women Who Help to Govern the USSR

By Maria Zheleznova

That Soviet women enjoy equal rights with men is again evidenced by the large number of women among the deputies attending the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, which recently concluded in Moscow.

After the Session closed, the women deputies were members of the Soviet Women's Anti-fascist Committee, where they were greeted by the Chairman, Colonel

Valentina Grizodubova, E. Popova, S. Polyakova, and other famous members.

Among the guests were women of all the nationalities inhabiting the Soviet Union. Next to dark-eyed Chimnaz Aslanova, an Azerbaijanian school teacher and Vice Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, sat the famous Ukrainian tractor driver, Pasha Angelina. Nearby were Nadezhda Maslennikova, Chairman



HEROINES OF THE PATRIOTIC WAR—Anya Goryunova (left) and her sister Tatyana, serving with a Guards Medical Battalion of the Red Army

of the Kursk City Soviet, and Tezagul Masharinova, a law student from Turkmenia. Other guests were Eugenia Mikhailova, Honored Artist of the Moldavian Republic, and Sofya Sidorova, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Yakutian Autonomous Republic.

Many women deputies from other Regions and Republics were present. Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Valentina Grizodubova had flown to Moscow from the Leningrad Front to attend the session. With her at the meeting was her young son; she sees him but rarely now, and every moment with her child is dear to her.

The delegates discussed the tireless work of women of all Soviet nationalities to help the Red Army smash the enemy as quickly as possible. Maslennikova and Yevdokia Slava told of the heroism of the women of the Kursk Region and their struggle against the German invaders during the occupation. All schools, hospitals and nurseries in Kursk and the surrounding area were destroyed; 103,500 houses were burned down or dynamited, leaving 300,000 people without shelter; 40,000 young people were shipped to slavery in Germany, and 25,000 civilians shot or tortured to death.

But already, the deputies reported, women of the Kursk area are enthusiastically rebuilding their shattered homes. Five hundred schools, 473 medical institutions and 1,590 libraries have already been opened in the Region, and 17,000 children are attending kindergartens and nurseries. There is still a shortage of shoes and clothing, but the country is doing everything possible to supply these necessities.

Deputy Maslennikova was the last to quit Kursk when the Germans entered it, leaving by the eastern gate after the enemy had already entered from the west. This remarkable woman began her working life as a janitress in the local railway station. She afterward became a locksmith apprentice, studied while working, and in 1930 was appointed director of a clothing factory. Later she headed other industrial enterprises, and in 1937 was elected to her present post.

Chimnaz Aslanova spoke of the women of Azerbaijan and their work for the front. "Many of the young girls who have taken the places of their menfolk in the oilfields and helped to maintain a steady sup-

ply of oil to the front have been decorated by the Government," she said. "Besides their other work the women take care of children whose parents have been murdered by the Nazis. Several thousand youngsters have been adopted by Azerbaijanian families and are happy in their new homes."

Pasha Angelina, a young woman with a boyish energetic face, who is very popular throughout the country, told of the wartime work and life of the "Angelina" tractor drivers' brigade. This unique brigade is made up of women, all members of Angelina's family. When the Germans neared their collective farm in the Ukraine, they were evacuated to Kazakhstan, where they continued working for the welfare of the country.

"My sister Nadya went to the front with her husband," Pasha Angelina said. "He was killed and she herself wounded three times, but she is still fighting. The husband of another sister, Lelya, joined the guerrillas. The Germans caught him and after prolonged torture buried him alive. When Lelya received word of her husband's death, she did not leave her tractor, but drove it still more furiously, overfulfilling her quota by 500 per cent."

"All the members of my brigade have now returned to their homes and are aiding in reconstruction work. The Nazis destroyed our collective farms but we are restoring it and preparing for the spring sowing."

Colonel Valentina Grizodubova spoke of the defeat of the Germans at Leningrad, where she took part in an operation against them.

The work of the Soviet Women's Anti-fascist Committee and its contacts with women's organizations in Great Britain and the United States, India, Australia and other countries was discussed by the assistant general secretary, I. Yakovleva. Women abroad are deeply interested in the heroic struggle of Soviet women, said Yakovleva, and in the fate of the people in districts formerly occupied by the Germans. Gifts of kindergarten and day nursery equipment, warm clothing and linens are being received from abroad for these areas.

Many other interesting reports were made by the women deputies on the wartime work of their Regions and Republics.

Women in the USSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life.

The possibility of exercising these rights is insured to women by granting them an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, and by state protection of the interests of mother and child, pre-maternity and maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

**Constitution of the USSR—
Article 122**

15,000 Women of Red Army Medical Services Decorated

Some 15,000 Soviet women working in various branches of the medical service have been decorated with orders and medals for heroism at the front. The Order of Lenin has been presented to over 150 women doctors, nurses and stretcher-bearers.

In the fighting for one Dnieper crossing, enemy aviation began bombing the dispositions of an ambulance battalion. A gravely wounded soldier lay on an operating table. Surgeon Kaverina and Senior Medical Nurse Shashkova remained calm. They covered the wounded man with sterilized sheets, and when several bombs landed near the operating room and its ceiling began falling, Maria Shashkova protected the man with her own body. Almost all the members of the ambulance company, including Surgeon Kaverina, were wounded. Nevertheless, when the raid ended she completed the operation, saving the man's life. All members of the medical staff of this battalion have been awarded the Order of the Red Star.

In a recent battle several dozen wounded remained on the field. It seemed impossible to remove them because of the incessant shelling. Then the woman commander of the medical platoon, Assistant Surgeon Matrena Erko, took one end of a long wire cable and several rain capes and crawled out onto the field. She went from one wounded man to another, placing them on the capes and attaching the capes to the wire. When she had rescued them all, the stretcher bearers dragged them back by the cable. Every man was saved, but the heroic woman surgeon lost her life before she could regain shelter.

Lieutenant of the Medical Service Surgeon Vera Pitkevich has performed some 3,000 operations in field hospitals. Alexandra Sukhorukova, leading surgeon of a First Aid Platoon, saved the lives of 1,500 officers and men.

Tens of thousands of Russian girls are aiding the Red Army in this great Patriotic War against German fascism. In this army of war nurses, 18-year-old Tamara is typical. Volunteering to accompany a tank unit on a raid deep behind the German lines, she was riding on a tank hit by a German shell and set on fire. Every man was killed except the commander. He was wounded and his clothes were burning. Tamara put out the flames, dragged him from the tank and bandaged his wounds. Both were rescued by another tank. This was the 80th man whose life had been saved by this interpid young girl.

The fascist gangsters torture wounded Red Army men who fall into their hands, or kill them on the battlefield. The world knows of the tragedy of the Kharkov Clinic, where the hospital for Red Army men was burned with the patients inside. Straw,

shavings and other inflammable materials were heaped on stairways, the windows of the ground floor were boarded up, and incendiary bombs flung into the building. A nurse on duty implored the German officer to spare the patients. The officer pulled out his revolver and killed her.

Nurses who work with the guerrillas defend the wounded with their lives, knowing the Germans will



In a field hospital, Nurse Polina Dratvina reads good news to a convalescing Red Army man

torture those whom they capture. Nurse Katya Abramova has carried 30 wounded guerrillas to safety; Sosya Deninaites, a nurse in a Lithuanian guerrilla detachment, has saved 60 wounded men.

Soviet war nurses have amply earned the affection of the Red Army and of the people. Thousands have been decorated for valor in their noble work.

SOVIET WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

By Nina Popova

Member of the Soviet Women's Anti-fascist Committee

The Soviet woman occupies a prominent place in the great struggle for the freedom and independence of our country. She is doing her utmost to help bring about the defeat of the enemy.

Women are to be found in every field of Soviet life. In industry the Soviet woman has increased her war effort tenfold. Nothing is too difficult for her. She works at a lathe or milling machine, as a stone mason or navvy, in the reconstruction of Stalingrad, Smolensk, Orel, Kiev and other cities. She is building factories and blast furnaces, felling and floating timber, working on the tunnels of new

14,000 women office employees went into industry. Fifteen hundred clerical workers are now busy in the mines of the Kuznetsk coal fields.

Shop No. 17 of a certain munitions plant is an excellent example of the growth of the number of women in industry. Before the war, the women employees here could be counted on the fingers of two hands, but by January of 1944 they comprised 70 per cent of the entire skilled personnel. Many of these women have proved tireless workers and capable organizers.

In another plant, where sub-machine guns are assembled, Maria Ezhova heads a brigade which has made it a rule to turn out twice its daily quota. Her brigade has assembled enough tommy guns over and above the plan to arm an entire division. Tatyana Yurchenko, machinist in a Urals plant, handled 300,000 shells above her quota. Valya Lysmina, employed at a textile mill in Barnaul, produced 7,500 meters of cloth in excess of plan.

Women working in the so-called "front-line" brigades regularly over-fulfil their production quotas as much as two and even threefold. The aim of these brigades, formed shortly after the war broke out, is to work as well in industry as the Red Army men fight at the front.

In 1943, Ekaterina Baryshnikova, a Moscow girl employed at a ball-bearing plant, devised a new method of production which made it possible to eliminate one-half the workers formerly required. The method was quickly adopted all over the USSR. Khitrova, a milling machinist, demonstrated that 10 parts could be milled simultaneously, thereby enormously increasing the output of her plant.

In cities devastated by the German invaders, women are taking their places in reconstruction work and industry. Half the workers in the coal mines are women and girls. The work is difficult work for them, but they are rapidly becoming skilled miners. Maria Grishutina, of pit No. 19-20, in Gorlovka, recently established a productive record for the whole Donets Basin, cutting 40.6 tons of coal in one shift—1,145 per cent of the normal quota.

Many leading positions in industry are now being filled by women. There is also a constant increase in the number of women heading brigades and working as shift or section foremen. These devoted women are giving all their knowledge, experience and ability to serve the country's great war effort.



On Soviet railways women work as engineers, firemen, brakemen, dispatchers and station-masters.
Elena Pavlova is a fireman on a passenger train

branches of the Moscow subway. She has taken the place of men at the wheels of tractors and automobiles, in the oilfields, in the militia and fire brigades.

Immediately after the war began, hundreds of thousands of women students of middle and senior schools, and clerical workers, undertook jobs they had never attempted before. In the Sverdlovsk Region alone,



Transporting wounded by reindeer sleigh on the Northern Front

IN THE FAR NORTH

Women Play a Part in Government, Administer Industry, Herd Reindeer and Hunt

Sofya Sidorova, a strong and energetic woman of 35, is Chairman of the Presidium of the Yakutian Autonomous Republic. In addition, she is a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

A native of Yakutia, Sofya Sidorova has had long experience in organizational and administrative work. She was among the first women of Yakutia to receive a higher education—completing the course at the University for Eastern Peoples in Moscow. Her various activities for the Republic won her wide popularity among the Yakutian people, who in 1938 elected her to her present high posts.

Yakutia, situated in the eastern part of Siberia, bordering the Arctic Ocean on the north, has a climate of extreme severity in winter, often reaching 70 degrees below zero Centigrade, accompanied by heavy snows and blizzards. Since the October Revolution this formerly neglected region has developed its own doctors, engineers, artists and executives.

While Sidorova was in Moscow attending the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet, she told a newspaper correspondent something of the life of her Republic in wartime, and especially of the activities of Yakutian women.

In the absence of their husbands, brothers and sons, now in the Red Army, Yakutian women have

taken over many economic and administrative posts formerly held by men," she said.

"Our Republic is exceptionally rich in timber, minerals and metals—especially gold—and many of our women are now in the mining industry. Since the war large numbers of women have also learned to care for the reindeer herds. The breeding of reindeer is of exceptional importance to us, as these animals are used for draft purposes and also furnish meat, fur and hides.

"Few people understand the difficulties of a herdsman's life. He must know the tundra well, to be able to choose good pastures; he must be brave, to protect the animals against wolves and other beasts of prey and to save the herd in heavy blizzards.

"We now have a number of women who have distinguished themselves by excellent work in preserving and increasing the reindeer herds. Maria Penzerova, who became a herdsman a number of years ago, and Ustinya Batakayeva, who replaced her husband in this work when he went to the front, have been awarded Orders of Merit by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. Anisya Koltovskaya, only 21 years of age, has worked for two years as a veterinarian in the Zhigansk district, where she achieved splendid results in combating endemic diseases among the herds.

(Continued on page eight)

LENINGRAD HEROINES

By Elena Vallina

Only recently the people of Leningrad called the rest of the Soviet Union the "mainland." The remarkable life they led on their "island" home aroused the admiration of their friends and drove their enemies to desperation. It was not for glory, but for happiness, for life itself, that the women of Leningrad fought shoulder to shoulder with their men in the defense of their beautiful city.

Look closely at this city—examine its wounds—and you will understand the anguish and the grandeur of this epic siege. Here is the Nevsky Prospekt, its perspective lost in the bluish haze of dawn. The city is silent. The city sleeps. Only girl air-raid wardens keep vigil in the watch-towers and on the roofs of buildings.

Here is house No. 111. Formerly it was a "baby shop," where mothers could buy everything necessary for their infants. Then a German shell came hurtling into the piles of layettes, baby shoes, socks and blankets. The front wall is all that remains of the shop.

Very noticeable in the life of Leningrad are the girls in gray quilted jackets—air-raid wardens. During the winter of 1941, when there was no fuel, women overcame hunger and cold to bring in peat and wood. German bombs smashed the river embankments and canals. With the skill of old-timers, the women covered up the holes with slabs of granite, learned new trades—became carpenters, plasterers, masons, roofers and electricians. The heroism of the girl defenders of Leningrad will never be forgotten. Innumerable examples of personal courage were displayed by them both inside the city and in the battles on the front adjoining it.

Field Nurse Maria Karpenko and her brother served in the same detachment. When her brother died in her arms from battle wounds, Maria swore to avenge him. Later a German sniper opened fire on a group of Soviet soldiers; Maria saw blue smoke rising from between the branches of a fir tree. She crept to the tree and pressed the trigger of her tommy gun. The sniper and his rifle fell to the ground. At that moment a Soviet machine gun some distance to the left fell silent—its crew had been put out of action. A little way off the Nazis could be seen concentrating for an attack. Maria rushed to the machine gun and opened fire on the enemy. For her bravery and the service she rendered the fighters, she was decorated with the Order of the Red Star and the Medal "For the Defense of Leningrad."

Paulina Zaitseva, only 20 years of age, was the

first girl on the Leningrad Front to receive the Order of Glory. Rendering first aid to the wounded immediately after a hand-to-hand engagement, she was struck in the shoulder and leg by a shell splinter, but refused to leave the battlefield until she had attended to all the wounded.

When you look into the earnest gray eyes of Tatyana Rzhanova, you feel the great inner strength of this girl who became indignant when men of the Baltic Fleet were brought into the machine shops to man the lathes.

"Let them go back to their ships," she said, "We'll do the work." And the women did it. Tatyana is now foreman of a rolling mill making armor plate, and the members of her brigade of women have been given the honorary title, "Guardsmen of Labor."

The silence of Leningrad is now undisturbed by barbarous shellings; the Admiralty Building points its famous spire into the blue sky; the cupola of Saint Isaak's Cathedral looms in the distance, and beyond snow-covered shrubbery rises the austere and majestic monument to the great General Suvorov. Leningrad is the same, yet different. Red Navy sailors, office workers and housewives stroll along its streets. The buzz of enemy planes is no longer heard. No one raises his head in alarm, and the faces of children have lost the strained tenseness of siege days. A woman is clearing snow from the pavement. On her bosom flashes the Medal "For the Defense of Leningrad."

The Girl in Blue

Her name is Eugenia Bobrovskaya. She wears the blue uniform of the Leningrad Militia. She is 23 years of age and was born and brought up in Leningrad, where she was a student at the Agricultural Academy when the Germans invaded her country. Her mother died of starvation during the bitter winter of the blockade; her father and one sister were evacuated with a factory to the east. Her husband is at the front, and a young sister is doing war work.

Eugenia did not want to leave Leningrad. She remained, joined the Militia, served some time in the ranks and is now a Junior Sergeant, directing traffic at a busy intersection. She lives with the girls of the force at the Militia Barracks. For her heroism under the bombings and shellings by German and Finnish forces, she has been awarded the "For the Defense of Leningrad" Medal.



(1) Eugenia Bobrovskaya, the girl in blue, (story on page six), Junior Sergeant of the Leningrad Militia; (2) Eugenia at rifle drill with her section—the Militia forms a reserve of the Red Army, trained in street fighting and ready at all times to defend the country; (3) On duty directing traffic; (4) When the air-raid alarm sounded, Eugenia sent passersby to bomb shelters, then rushed with other Militia girls to rescue the victims of an apartment house partly demolished by a bomb; (5) A proud day—Eugenia receives the Medal "For the Defense of Leningrad" from the Chief of the Leningrad Militia, Commissar of the Second Rank Grushenko

JULIA STEPANENKO—*People's Commissar of Light Industry of the Uzbek Republic*

By Vasili Krainev

The small sign on the door read: "People's Commissar of Light Industry of the Uzbek Soviet Republic." A secretary ushered me into a large room with open windows. The floor was covered by a handsome Samarkand rug, and two comfortable-looking leather armchairs stood near a desk.

Julia Stepanenko, a tall woman of about 35, with short dark hair brushed smoothly back, rose from the desk to greet me. Her dress was simple but becoming, her face youthful and animated, but the shadows under her eyes told of hard and intensive work which keeps her in her office many nights as well as days.

"You want me to tell you about myself?" she said in some surprise, when I explained the reason for my visit. "But there's nothing to tell. I'm just a Soviet woman, like any other." When I insisted there was a great deal to be said about her work, and how she came to be filling her present post, she began to talk very matter-of-factly.

"I grew up in a large Ukrainian village. My father, formerly a worker, is now Assistant People's Commissar of the Food Industry in Uzbekistan. My husband is an Uzbek.

"I was graduated from an industrial academy as an engineer, specializing in the processing of cotton. I went to work in industry, became manager of the raw cotton supply trust, then Assistant People's Commissar of the Textile Industry of Uzbekistan, and for the past year have been People's Commissar of Light Industry for the Republic."

But when she began to speak of the Uzbek factories and the help they are giving the Red Army at the front, Commissar Stepanenko's eyes lighted up and she became more talkative.

"Our light industry has been through difficult times since the war began," she explained. "Uniforms, boots and other equipment were needed by the Army, but we did not have sufficient raw materials and were short of spare parts for the machines, which were usually imported to Uzbekistan from other parts of the USSR.

"We were able to overcome these lacks by stubborn, determined work. It was necessary to spare the railways as much as possible, since they were needed for war loads, so we tried to get everything for our industry locally. We even undertook to build a num-

ber of new factories, some of which are already in operation—including a plant for the manufacture of plastic leather, which provides raw material for the footwear factories and has enabled us to supply the Army with the number of boots required from us. We have also completed a plant for producing tanning extract, and two more tanneries are under construction. Production of fittings and spare parts for our machines and workshops has been organized, and we try to use economically the raw materials available.

"Last year our factories over-fulfilled the State plan for output. We provided extra equipment for 10,000 soldiers. These successes are all due to the heroic efforts of our workers, chiefly women—the mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and sweethearts of our soldiers at the front, who work gladly and happily for victory. The fulfillment of war orders ahead of schedule has become a regular thing for our factories."

In addition to her responsibility, as People's Commissar of Light Industry, for hundreds of factories and plants and thousands of workers and engineers, Julia Stepanenko is the mother of five children, the eldest 16 and the youngest 18 months. Four are her own—the fifth, a five-year-old, was adopted during the war.

FAR NORTH

(Continued from page five)

"Our Republic is rich in fur-bearing animals—silver foxes, sables, white and blue foxes and ermine. Among our hunters are many women. Yevdokia Starostina, an Evenk woman of 55, has had 20 years' experience as a hunter, and now heads a brigade of women hunters who are doing excellent work. Hunting in Yakutia is hard work, and means serious privations. We are doing our best to supply the needs of the hunters—delivering ammunition and food-supplies to their camps by reindeer.

"The German attack on the Soviet Union has made us conscious of the strength of the moral and political ties uniting us with the great Russian nation. When the women of Yakutia bid goodbye to their husbands, sons, brothers and fiancées leaving for the distant front, they tell them to fight to the end for victory. This sacred duty the sons of Yakutia are fulfilling with honor."

900 DAYS BEHIND THE GERMAN LINES



Marine Field Nurse Panya Kozlova, who has carried 70 wounded men from the battlefield

She Serves With the Marines

Alexandra Rudneva's father wanted her to study law. She wanted to go to sea. When war came, she joined the Red Navy and has since served in the Baltic Fleet. At her own request, she was first placed in a Marine reconnaissance detachment, and went on many hazardous assignments, displaying constant coolness and bravery.

Last winter when her cutter was frozen in the Gulf of Finland, she went ashore with Lieutenant Semyon Golubev and in a heavy snowstorm helped him to dynamite the enemy's staff headquarters. In spite of a machine-gun bullet in the leg, Alexandra got back to the ship safely. For valor in action she has already received the For Distinguished Service Medal and the Medal "For the Defense of Leningrad." Recently her father wrote her: "When you are an admiral, I won't insist upon your studying law."

Nineteen-year-old Anya Smolnikova, a Byelorussian, was a bookkeeper in a small town on the western borders of the USSR. When the Germans occupied the town, Anya and her husband—who is now a Hero of the Soviet Union—began the formation of an underground sabotage group. For 900 days they remained behind the enemy lines.

In the first days of the German occupation Anya constructed a radio set, over which she received the daily communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau. These she posted at night—right next to the communiques of the German command. Thus the townspeople and those of the villages in the surrounding area were kept accurately informed of the progress of the war.

When the sabotage group had grown to several hundred, Anya's husband, the commander, led it into the forest and set up a guerrilla camp. But Anya remained in the German-held town with her radio set, continuing to give news to the inhabitants and keeping the guerrillas informed of the movements of German troops and railway traffic in the district.

Finally the Gestapo tracked the daring radio operator down, but Anya was warned in time. Thirty minutes before the police came to her apartment she escaped, taking her radio, maps and documents, and joined her husband's guerrilla unit in the forest. For a year she was the only woman member.

There she continued her task of receiving and spreading the communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau, and also took part in sabotage operations. She herself wrecked eight German troop trains, killing over 1,500 Hitlerites.

Later Anya became assistant commander of the guerrilla detachment and led it in a daring operation. Learning that a train carrying 400 Germans was due to pass at night en route to the front, she directed that a 100-kilogram bomb be dragged to the track and placed between the rails. She herself attached the fuse. When the train appeared, she lighted the fuse and crawled away. At that moment another German train from the opposite direction rounded the curve. A frightful explosion followed, and both trains were completely destroyed. Scouts estimated that at least 700 Hitlerites perished.

Anya Smolnikova has been decorated with the Guerrilla of the Patriotic War Medal and the Medal for Distinction in Action, and has been recommended for the military Order of the Red Banner.

"WE SAVED THE TRACTORS"

By Pasha Angelina

The author, a native of Starobeshevo village in the Ukraine, organized the famous "Angelina Brigade," the first women tractor drivers in the USSR. She is an outstanding Stakhanovite of agriculture, and a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

When war began and our country called upon all citizens to do their utmost for defense, I left the Agricultural Academy where I was studying and returned to my tractor. My younger sister Nadya also gave up her studies and went into the fields. The Angelina tractor brigade was again complete. It included, besides ourselves, my sister-in-law Katya and my niece Marina. Soon Nadya decided to go to the front. After she left, each of us did the work of two, and sometimes of three.

Difficulties of Evacuation to the East

One evening, just as the fall plowing was coming to an end, the director of the machine and tractor station summoned me and said the enemy was near. We were ordered to leave. Already the ground was shaking with the approaching tanks, and bombs were falling on defenseless cottages.

We determined to save our tractors; we could not think of leaving them for the enemy. When the Angelina brigade set out for the East, the tractors went with us. Horse-carts carried fuel and spare parts. After them came our families—the children and old folk. We rode across the steppe and along deep ravines bombed and machine-gunned by the enemy.

That night we were forced to halt. Lelya, the sister of our brigade leader, was giving birth. I shall never forget the strange scene: the sky in flames and bombs exploding all about. And in the midst of this terror the tiny voice of a new being rang out confidently.

One hour later we were again on the move. The next great difficulty was the crossing of the Don. It was hard enough to get the people over, to say nothing of the tractors. Only when this was done could we breathe freely.

My five-year-old daughter, Svetlana, who had watched me anxiously during this ordeal, asked, "Mama, the Germans won't get us now, will they?"

"No, darling," I said. "And they won't get the tractors, either!"

At Belaya Kalitva, after a 12-day journey, we

turned over the powerful machines to the Red Army, together with seven carts and 14 horses.

From there we traveled by railway. It was a train of sorrow and misery—children being evacuated from their peaceful homes, which were now in the front lines. Our country gave all possible care and attention to these little refugees, and we did all we could to aid them on the trip.

We were now on the road to Kazakhstan, bidding farewell to the Don Steppes and our beloved river—confident that we would return.

Our brigade set to work tilling the fertile soil of Kazakhstan, and it seemed that never did we work so eagerly. We only left our seats on the tractors when sleep overcame us. And while we worked, the days grew into months—the months into years.

All the women of our brigade had their share of sorrow. Nadya's husband was killed at the front. Lelya's husband was tortured and buried alive. Yet these brave women worked on, doing more than their quota of work even on the days when they received the sorrowful news.

Throughout the harvest we ran our tractors in third gear, and sometimes in fourth. My brigade covered 5,401 hectares, instead of the 2,100 called for in the plan, and saved 14 tons of fuel.

Training Tractor Drivers in Kazakhstan

Most important of all was the help we gave the Budenny machine and tractor station, in training women as tractor drivers. Before we came, women had never done this work—but now the station is very proud of its outstanding women tractor and combine operators.

We had friends and were treated most warmly at the Budenny station, but our hearts yearned for the Don, for our village of Starobeshevo, for the Ukraine. On the day we received the news of the liberation of the Donets Basin, the city of Stalino and our village by the heroic Red Army, we were wild with joy.

We had never doubted that we would return—but now we were making preparations for the great journey! In the days to come we shall work still harder for the rehabilitation of our beautiful region, mutilated by the ruthless enemy, and for the restoration of our former happy life.

At Sunset

By Tatyana Tess

Not far from the Sea of Azov, in the Rostov Region, there is a district known as Petrushkina Kosa. The bay is visible from here, a beautiful sight especially at sunset, when the sails of the fishing boats are rose-tinged and the faint breeze scarcely ruffles the gleaming surface of the water.



The body of a Leningrad woman killed in her apartment by a fascist shell is lowered to the ground, the stairway of the house having been demolished

Somewhat off the main road lies the village of Petrushinskaya, a very small village, with white cottages lining the two sides of its one short street.

The motorcyclist Mitya, a lively young lad from a factory garage, drove me in a sidecar one evening along the paved road that leads to the bay. As we

rounded a turn the red sunset met our eyes and a breeze smelling of wormwood touched our faces. It was still autumn here; the landscape was calm and peaceful.

Yet in this scene of peace the heart was troubled. The road we were traveling was one along which the Germans used to lead people to be executed. Suddenly Mitya halted. We had reached the edge of a gully of rust-red clay. The banks seemed to have caved in; there were no flowers, grass or trees here, and no stream flowed.

Mitya jumped down from the motorcycle and taking off his cap went closer to the gully. The wind ruffled his hair as he stood there silently, as one stands at a grave.

"So you've come back, Mitya," a voice said from somewhere behind us. I turned. Before me stood a thin, short old man, apparently a villager.

"You've come to your Mama," he continued. "And where is she? Not even in a grave, where you might sit and cry for her."

Mitya remained silent, his lips tightly closed, his face white.

"I didn't find my wife, either," the old man said softly. "When they dug the others out, I scraped the earth off every face; I looked at their shawls and kerchiefs. There were so many of them. . . I couldn't find my old woman. Fifty years together . . . and I couldn't even say goodbye to her. Like you, I come here in the evenings and stand and cry a little, then go back home. My poor old dear. . . Why did those swine kill her? Why did they shed the blood of an old woman?"

As I listened to this terrible story, the blood froze in my veins. The Germans brought their victims here in the evenings, usually at sunset. Shots, groans and the cries of children could be heard as far away as Petrushinskaya village. Here, at this hour, had stood Soviet people doomed to death; here mothers pressed their children to their breasts; here wives recalled for the last time their beloved husbands; here aged women crossed themselves; here people screamed and cursed the Germans. Blood soaked the red clay.

The excavations of this huge grave, which were carried out a few days after the liberation of the district, disclosed the fact that several thousand people had been murdered here by the Germans. The old man's wife and Mitya's mother had been among them.

Ukrainian Singer in Moscow

By Irina Maslennikova

Ukrainians usually sing from childhood to old age. I was born and bred in the Ukraine, where my father was a school teacher. I can't remember when I began to sing, but at the age of nine my father got a piano and a music teacher for me. I was in raptures, and from then on I knew there was no other career for me but music.

In one of the Kiev factories where my elder brother worked there was an amateur musical club directed by Professor Fedor Palayev, of the Kiev Conservatory. This elderly but tremendously enthusiastic man had formed a regular opera company, with soloists and chorus and a miniature symphony orchestra, from the workers in the factory.

I joined this group as an amateur pianist. One day during a rehearsal of the opera, *Taras Bulba*, by the Ukrainian composer Lysenko, from Gogol's famous book, Professor Palayev discovered he did not have enough women's voices in the choir and asked me to help out. After the rehearsal he praised my voice, and suggested that I enter a course in the Kiev Conservatory. I was accepted at the Conservatory, and some time later was asked to join the Kiev Opera and Ballet Theater.

Then the great calamity of war fell upon our country. The Nazis invaded the Ukraine and we were

evacuated to Bashkiria, where we met with sympathy and warm friendliness. Ours is a huge country, and it would not be strange if people uprooted from their homes should feel lost in its vastness. But this is not the case—no matter where you turn you meet the great-hearted Soviet people ready to stretch a helping hand to you. These people will not let any orphan, child, old man or woman or homeless family suffer.

Thus in Bashkiria I was able to continue my career with the Kiev Opera Company. In December, 1942, I was invited with other Ukrainian artists to sing at a concert in Moscow, dedicated to the Jubilee of the Soviet Ukraine. Uplifted by the occasion, I sang to the best of my ability. Among those attending the concert was Valeria Barsova, of the Bolshoi Opera, one of the most outstanding singers of the country. She invited me to come to her home, and after listening carefully to my voice, offered me—a 25-year-old novice—one of the most prized places on the Soviet stage—that of soloist for the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theater in Moscow.

Since then I have had the great honor to sing leading roles in the country's most famous opera house. When my friends jokingly say I was born under a lucky star, I tell them, "The stars of my native Ukraine are beautiful—but I am lucky because I was born on Soviet soil."

CHESS POPULAR WITH SOVIET WOMEN

Men have no monopoly on chess in the Soviet Union. The game has won great popularity among Soviet women, and thousands have achieved a high standard of play. This is true of all parts of the country, from Sakhalin Island in the north to Central Asia, where only a quarter of a century ago the women were veiled. Now these women play chess with rare enthusiasm. A few years ago special chess circles for women were organized on the collective farms of Turkmenia.

In the chess clubs of the country many gifted women work as executives, and a woman was for several years assistant chairman of the Moscow Chess Society. For a long time women did not play in tournaments with men, but in 1937 four Moscow women—Nina Bluket, Vera Chudova, Nina Golubeva and Olga Morachevskaya—competed in the qualifying tournament for the Moscow championship. There was great interest in the showing the women would make, some skeptics expressing the opinion that they

would not score more than three points out of the 60 games. But the women surprised them, scoring 17 points, and receiving a national ranking in the second category. It may be remarked that some of the most expert men players in the first category have been beaten by women.

The first National Women's Tournament was held in Moscow in 1937, with 11 entries. The winner was Olga Rubtsova, an engineer, who subsequently won many tournaments and still holds the championship. She also successfully defended her title against the outstanding Leningrad player, Olga Semyonova, daughter of the famous explorer and geographer, P. Semyonov-Tyanshansky.

Among the leading Soviet women chess players are many well-known artists, including the poet Susanna Var, noted for her translations of Armenian and Lithuanian poetry and the Polish classics of Adam Mickiewicz; the pianist Tatyana Goldfarb, and Ekaterina Elanskaya, of the Moscow Art Theater.

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State Aid to Families of Red Army Men

YDA wrote recently:

The families of service men receive special attention from the Soviet Government, which allocates enormous sums for allowances to them. The law provides large rebates in taxes, in deliveries of agricultural products to the State, in rent, in tuition fees, to the families of Red Army men. All managers, enterprises, institutions and organizations are instructed to render material aid to them in their daily

Last year special administrations and departments to aid the families of service men were set up in the Union Republics. These departments have carried out extensive work during the 12 months of their existence, registering all families of service men, establishing regular contact with them and helping any who are in need.

During 1943 allowances paid to families of service men in the RSFSR alone amounted to 6,654,000,000 rubles. The social maintenance departments have



Below students of the Third Medical Institute—(left to right) I. Tkan, V. Lukasheva and E. Knitel—each of whom has given numerous blood donations for the Red Army

established special public funds for aid to these families. Many collective farms sowed special acreage above the plan for service men's families. In the RSFSR, over 137,147 tons of foodstuffs, 115,000 head of cattle, 1,500,000 pairs of boots, 3,400,000 articles of clothing and more than 120,000,000 rubles in cash were distributed from these funds. Living quarters were provided for 131,000 families, 304,000 were given aid in repairing their homes, 2,500,000 families received vegetable garden allotments, 14,904 tons of seed potatoes and 270,000 tons of fodder for cattle.

During the past year jobs were provided for some 1,500,000 members of service men's families. Working with Stakhanovite methods, many of these workers made high earnings and achieved a stable material position. In Leningrad practically every able-bodied member of the service men's families is working.

Children of service men enjoy particular care. The welfare of children and their education has always been a matter of paramount importance to the State. During the war the number of schools in the country has grown considerably and will further increase in 1944. New schools, children's homes and kindergartens have been built. The organs of the Soviet Government and the general public treat education and the maintenance of children as a matter of daily concern and provide for the proper care of children when their mothers leave for work.

With all their hearts and using every available means the Soviet State and our people endeavor to alleviate for the children the hardships caused by war. Children orphaned by the war are placed in special homes, whose number has grown considerably during the war. In 1943, the facilities of kindergartens and nurseries in the RSFSR were expanded to accommodate another 1,000,000 children.

Since the outbreak of war the number of doctors

for children has been doubled, and the post of District Pediatricist established throughout the country. Due to these measures, the number of cases of measles has dropped threefold during the war, and scarlet fever and dysentery have shown a considerable decrease.

In some of the liberated areas a large number of children have lost their parents and homes. The accommodation of these children is a primary concern of the Soviet Government: schools, homes and dining rooms are opened for them. One hundred and eighteen homes for 16,300 children; 23 vocational schools for 9,000 children, and nine Suvorov military schools for 4,588 boys have been established in the liberated areas for the children of soldiers who died in action. Care for the children of Red Army men is a nation-wide concern.

The collective farms have set up special cash funds to aid the families of Red Army men. Ten health resorts where 12,000 children will vacation yearly have been opened by the collective farmers for children evacuated from Leningrad. With their own money the collective farms of Moscow Region have opened children's homes for 1,700 children, and in the Ryazan Region 143 collective farm children's homes have been built, accommodating 1,200 children. Similar homes are being opened in the Kalinin, Vologda, Tambov, Yaroslavl and other Regions.

In the Stalingrad Region contributions in December, 1943 for aid to families of service men amounted to 3,300,000 rubles. In addition, 2,700 tons of vegetables, about 198 tons of grain and large quantities of other products, including wool, footwear and sheepskins, and 2,500 head of cattle, have been contributed.

There is a wide drive throughout the country for the adoption of orphaned children, many citizens adopting two and even three.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER DECORATED

Recently the Order of the Patriotic War, Second Class, and the Order of the Red Star were awarded to Vera Dobrokhotova and Margarita Dobrokhotova, respectively, for saving the lives of an airplane crew, and for aiding wounded Red Army officers and men in the enemy rear.

In October, 1941, the plane of Captain Dymchenko, commander of X. Bomber Squadron, was hit during an air battle and landed in flames in a forest near the front line in the Smolensk Region. The Germans were searching for the fallen plane, but before they could find it, two Soviet women came to the aid of the wounded crew. They bandaged the men, placed

them in a cart and dragged them to the Red Army lines, arriving there three days after the accident.

The men's condition was so grave they did not learn the names of their saviors. Two years later Captain Dymchenko took part in the liberation of this Region. He searched for the women who had saved his life and found them in the village of Vershki. They proved to be mother and daughter, school teachers, who after their village was occupied by the Germans made it their task to aid Red Army wounded at the risk of their own lives. They hid many of these men—some for as long as 15 days—and helped them to return to their own lines.

The German Concept of War

By Nekrich

Hitlerite imperialism embodies everything criminal, greedy, cruel, thievish—the characteristic traits of old Prussian warmongers and serf-barons east of the Elbe, and the monopolistic industrialists of the Rhine. As far back as 1893, when no one dreamed of such a nightmare as total war, the Prussian General Count von Geseler turned to his troops lined up in a square in the city of Metz with the following barbarous program:

"Our civilization must inevitably be built on mountains of corpses, on oceans of tears, on the death rattle of endless numbers of people."

In this program the German imperialists attempted to realize in 1914, and with this object provoked a world war. The attempt ended in the rout of the German warmongers. But several million young lives were sacrificed in the struggle against the blood-thirsty aggressors. Tens of millions of mothers wept for their lost children, whom they had brought up with such care and at great sacrifice.

But the robbers were not appeased. Germany lost the war, they said, because she did not conduct it with sufficient cruelty. General Ludendorff stepped forward with the new notion of total war—the enemy must be destroyed by every possible means, regardless of any limitations of international law or concepts of humanity.

But for this, men of a peculiar kind are needed. Where are they to be found?—that is the problem. Markets for sale will always find a bidder. And upon this scene appears Nazism, with its storm troops and machine-guns. German youth are brought up on blasemies, filled to the brim with cannibalism and the teachings of *Mein Kampf*.

Alfred Rosenberg, co-author of Hitler's bible of racialistic propaganda, propagates the barbarous thesis that Jewishness is a disease grafted upon the Aryan soul. "The plague comes from the Jew Christ and the Russian Tolstoy, from the British Dickens and the French Victor Hugo."

That was how they trained their two-legged beasts to have tormented Europe for the last four and a half years. The non-combatant population of men and children is considered by the Germans as "inferior elements." With satanic fervor the Nazis particularly enjoy annihilating women in the oppressed countries.

Nothing can be compared to the savagery of the cannibals in the temporarily occupied Soviet Republic. Here the order of the day is to exterminate

the non-combatant population, so as to soon break the spirit of resistance of the Russian people and force them into submission—as instructed by General Field Marshal Reichenau; to create "oceans of tears and mountains of corpses," as taught by von Geseler.

But the barbarians miscalculated. The reign of terror did not frighten the Russian people; instead it brought Soviet women to the foreground in the struggle for the honor and independence of the motherland.

The Soviet woman is an active participant on all fronts of the Patriotic War and in the rear as well. When the Germans took women prisoners in Stalingrad, they could elicit nothing from them. The women faced all torture and torment, but kept the military secrets entrusted to them.

The widespread guerrilla movement in the German rear owes its success to a certain extent to the activities of women. The barbarians themselves have invariably noted with astonishment that the women guerrillas never beg for mercy, but go to their death with haughty scorn for their executioners.

Three-quarters of the territory captured by the Germans has already been freed. This, to a considerable degree, is also due to the efforts of Soviet women patriots fighting alongside their husbands and brothers. In the rear as well as at the front, they devote all their efforts and abilities to the annihilation of the bitterest enemy of mothers, and the cruelest in world history.

Germans Surround Child With Mines

At the very edge of a blazing village in the Novgorod area, from which the population had been driven away to Germany, Red Army men saw a boy of about 11, sitting alone, sobbing. As the Colonel hurried toward him, the child cried out, "Don't! Don't come near me!" The Colonel naturally disregarded him and continued to approach. The little boy screamed, "Don't! There are mines all around me!"

The Germans, knowing the Red Army men would hasten to pick up the child, had placed him on a tree stump amid a dense ring of mines. The slightest movement meant death, but the brave youngster had sat perfectly still for four hours. When released by the sappers, he said to the Colonel: "If you hadn't stopped in time, I was going to blow myself up." Anatoli Sklyarov, the youthful hero, has been awarded the Medal for Valor. Since no trace of his parents was found, the division adopted him.



Anna Osina at the Moscow Central Children's Home, giving the information required by the "Act of Adoption"



Anna bids goodbye to the supervisor, as she departs with her new daughter



A year later—Natasha is securely happy in her new home, memories of the dreadful days of war effaced by the loving care of her new family

New Homes—New Families

Sufferings that stagger the imagination were the lot of the children who stayed behind when the Germans invaded their districts. Little girls and boys saw their mothers, fathers and brothers put to death and their elder sisters deported to German bondage. Hunger and disease ravaged them. Many were savagely burned, tortured to death or shot.

Thousands of war orphans are picked up by the Red Army in every area liberated. Thirteen thousand were registered in the 36 districts of the Smolensk Region alone. The Soviet Government has made their upbringing its special concern. By the end of November, 1943, 101 special homes for 20,000 children had been opened by the People's Commissariat of Public Health.

In addition, Soviet trade unions are bringing up thousands of boys and girls, children of trade union members. For example, a factory committee at a large machine-building plant maintains five children's homes out of its insurance funds. The factory committee of the Yakhromsk textile mill has founded three similar homes. The Belka furriery has assumed responsibility for the care of 85 children.

The warm solicitude of the State for its little citizens who have suffered from the German aggression has met with a wide response throughout the land. A collective farm named for the Sixth Congress of Soviets, in the Sloboda district of the Kirov Region, was the first to set up a home for orphans of the war. Other farms quickly followed. Over 200 children's homes have already been founded in the rural Soviet areas, and these accommodate many thousands of war orphans. The collective farms have accepted full responsibility for these homes.

Two children's homes are maintained by the peasants of Olkuntsevo, a village near Moscow. There is a particularly fine one in the village of Lislovo, founded on the initiative of Anna Romanova, the chairwoman of the local collective farm. The farmers want to make the children forget that they are orphans. The best of everything goes to the homes. The little boys and girls are beautifully dressed. They get pleasant, wholesome meals, attend the local school, and help their foster-parents on the farms.

The Dergayevsk collective farm in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow Region runs a home for 60 children. Zakhvatkin, the chairman, cannot do enough for the boys and girls. He and his fellow farmers have provided the home with a piano, so the children can have piano and singing lessons.

Many thousands of other orphans have been adopted into Soviet homes. All the citizens of the USSR consider it their duty to care for the children of those who have met death at the hands of the Nazis.



(Above) Anna Osina says goodnight to her adopted daughter Natasha. The child's father was killed at the front and her mother in a German air raid at Narofominsk. (Below) Natasha and her new mother

14-YEAR-OLD SENIOR SERGEANT VINOGRADOV

By Mikhail Polonsky

In the hospital office I acquainted myself with the hero of this story—Senior Sergeant Anatoli Vinogradov. Anatoli is from the village of Burkov in the Kimrovo district, Kalinin Region. He was born in 1929.

I am making no mistake. Senior Sergeant Vinogradov was 14 years old last December.

When I saw him later, I thought he looked even younger. He's a little fellow, not tall. His leg had been amputated, and he was pacing the wide corridor on crutches.

The young hero was 12 when the war engulfed his native village. His father had gone to the front. Anatoli felt that he, too, should be fighting—so he escaped into the woods, seeking the guerrillas. He found a detachment among whom were a number of people from his own village.

Anatoli remained with the detachment for a year. Then he organized his own group of young avengers,

who began to operate boldly behind the German lines. In one engagement 35 of these youths fought a German army unit of equal strength, killing 16 and routing the remainder. Anatoli and his friend, 16-year-old Eugene, took one Hitlerite prisoner.

In August, 1943 the youth detachment learned of a new German garrison billeted in a Byelorussian village. After careful preparation, the boys prepared to attack, and Anatoli led the way.

Approaching the village, he found a pile of wood in his way. He started to leap over it, miscalculated the distance and fell. A mine exploded, wounding him. He was taken by plane to a hospital across the front line, where it was found necessary to amputate his leg.

Anatoli is now in a children's hospital in Gorky. Already accustomed to his crutches, he is making cheerful plans to return to school. The hospital commandant has arranged for his education.

Talented Children of Bashkiria

By M. Galperin

I have just spent two years in the little village of Karaidel, in the Bashkirian Autonomous Republic. Situated far from the railway, it is inhabited mainly by Bashkirs and Tartars. At the frequent literary and musical evenings which I organized there, I came into close contact with the children, many of whom possess remarkable talent.

Fourteen-year-old Mukhamet Gibaidulin, for lack of a piano in the village, taught himself in a short time to play the accordion, and displayed a technique which would have astounded audiences in any large European city. Becoming interested in the lad, I taught him the rudiments of note-writing, explaining as simply as possible the treble and bass clef, major and minor keys, and so on. After the first few lessons my pupil brought me his national folk melodies written down on self-ruled music paper; some of these songs I took back with me to Moscow.

At one of the village concerts I heard a group of 12 Bashkirs, aged from eight to 12 years, give a beautiful, clear rendering of national songs without accompaniment or conductor. With every variation in rhythm and tone the little singers correspondingly changed their phrasing, facial expressions and mimi-

cry. The performance would have satisfied the most exacting connoisseur. Among the village children I found real artistic treasures, including Raya Alimova, whose grace and rhythm in dancing were simply fascinating, and Zoya Khatmulina, the possessor of a wonderful crystal-clear voice.

The Karaidel orphanage had organized a chorus and dramatic circle, whose members were so truly gifted that rehearsals with them brought great pleasure to the art lover. In the same orphanage I found a 12-year-old self-educated artist, Yasha Samoshkin, whose drawings showed a thorough knowledge of anatomy. His pencil and water-color compositions would have amazed any connoisseur. Yasha Samoshkin was a willing illustrator of our wall-newspapers, and quickly grasped his particular tasks, fulfilling them brilliantly.

I have told of only a few of the talented children whom I discovered in a little district center, but many more such are to be found in the hills of Bashkiria. The festivals of national art, which became popular in the Soviet Union before the war, have revealed only a small portion of the great treasury of talent possessed by our country.

Results of Military Training in Schools

Major General Borisov, Assistant People's Commissar of Education of the Russian SFSR, recently gave the following summary of results of the introduction of military training in Soviet schools more than one and one-half years ago:

The program accepted for school children, which provides for primary military training for pupils, worked out satisfactorily everywhere. The separation of boys and girls in the schools has contributed greatly to the success of military training. In girls' schools, attention was mainly concentrated on medi-



Boys of the Soviet vocational schools training in trench warfare

cine training and the signal services, while in boys' schools student drills and shooting practice were the main items.

The military training instructors in the schools are persons of not less than three years' service in the army, the majority of whom are veterans of the recent war. Military departments, medical rooms and shooting ranges have been set up in the schools. Local factories take part in equipping these, and

a large quantity of training equipment is made by the students themselves, including spades, wooden dummy rifles, etc.

The Government allocates considerable money for the creation of such departments, which are centers for the military training of youth. In 1943, three million rubles were allocated for this purpose in Georgia alone. In addition to the military departments, some schools have so-called "Suvorov" rooms—a kind of exhibit where material about the heroic past of the Russian people and its great military leaders is gathered.

The school children perform the task of guarding the military property in schools, and thus learn the duties of a sentry. Military training in schools is taught in a lively, interesting manner. Obstacle courses with trenches, barbed wire entanglements and other barriers have been created near some schools. Here the children learn to crawl, study the technique of personal combat, "storm" enemy block-houses, etc. Often militarized games are conducted outside of the town. This summer over 80,000 upper-grade boys were trained in camps in the Russian SFSR.

Telegraph apparatuses have been set up in many girls' schools. The pupils send messages from one part of the building to another and lay telephone lines. Upper-grade girls have training in hospitals. In Leningrad, the school girls who passed their first-aid course were very helpful in caring for the wounded, and many received military awards.

Everyone Helps the Children

The people of the entire Soviet country lend a hand in organization and equipment of the extensive network of nurseries, kindergartens and homes in which the children of Red Army men, guerrillas and civilians who perished at the hands of the Germans are cared for.

In the Kharkov Region, where eight special children's homes have been opened with accommodations for 2,000 children, the local population contributed 900 cots, over 1,000 tables and other furniture. The best buildings in the most picturesque spots are set aside for the little ones. In Sokolniki, below Kharkov, the children are housed in spacious summer cottages. In another district a large sanatorium has been turned over to them. Every home has been provided with a piano, a gift from the Kharkov Regional Soviet.

Recently a large package was received by the Archadin children's home in the Stalingrad Region. It contained a rug made by a 70-year-old woman of the Mari Autonomous Region.

Tolstoy's Granddaughter in Moscow

By Boris Dairejiev

Heaps of crushed stone and builder's odds and ends still littered the courtyard of the newly renovated building of the Central Tolstoy Museum in Moscow. By a grim coincidence, on November 30, 1941, the day the Germans entered Yasnaya Polyana, Tolstoy's home, a German plane dropped a bomb in the courtyard of the Central Tolstoy Museum. The explosion blasted a wall and tore away almost the entire roof.

The exquisite ceiling frescoes were damaged, and many exhibits were destroyed. The well-known restorer Pavel Yukin, who at one time was invited to restore the frescoes of Westminster Abbey, is now working on these damaged frescoes.

It was at the Museum that Sophia Tolstoy and I met once more. I had not seen her for several years. Her grandfather's features, always clearly discernible in her face, were even more accentuated.

Learning that the Germans were spreading a legend to the effect that some kind of "niece" of Leo Tolstoy's was living in Zhizdra under the Bolsheviks in terrible straits, and that her husband had been exiled to Siberia, Sophia Tolstoy exclaimed indignantly: "You see, I had good reason to fear those scoundrels! If they had found us at Yasnaya Polyana, we would have been driven off to Berlin and there would have been provocation without end. No niece whatever of my grandfather Leo Tolstoy ever lived in Zhizdra. Besides, it's necessary to realize that not all the princes Tolstoy are relatives of Leo Tolstoy. In Russia the name of Tolstoy is as common as Ivanov. All the immediate relatives of Leo Tolstoy live in Moscow, and not one of us has ever been on German-occupied territory."

The writer's son, Sergei Tolstoy, his two grandchildren, Anna and Sophia; Olga, wife of his son Andrei; his niece Maria Bibikova, and his great-grandson Alexander, a student of geology, all receive a personal pension from the State, are provided for life with excellent residences, and in view of war conditions, receive various supplementary food rations.

"Before the war," said Sophia Tolstoy, "the old folk received a pension, the young ones worked, and everyone was happy."

As soon as news came that the Germans were approaching Yasnaya Polyana, Sergei Tolstoy asked to be evacuated immediately. On arriving in Moscow on October 15, 1941, he categorically refused to go any farther.

"I don't see any Germans in Moscow, and I can't possibly imagine them on the Arbat or the Volkhonka. It's a sheer impossibility. There's a solid wall of Red Army men between the Germans and Moscow. Moscow will not fall."

"No matter how I tried to persuade Uncle Sergei, he was adamant," Sophia Tolstoy told me. "And I am very grateful to him, because if he had decided to leave, I would have had to evacuate with the old folk, and there was so much work at the museum. About that time we opened an exhibit in the Okhotny Ryad Subway station—based on *War and Peace* and *Sevastopol Tales*, and called 'The Heroism and Patriotism of the Russian People.'

"Since the outbreak of war, the museum has arranged 25 exhibits in hospitals, army units, clubs and in the Gorky Park of Culture and Rest. The staff members and I have delivered 250 lectures on Tolstoy. All work connected with the evacuation of the valuables of the Yasnaya Museum, of which I am director, and its restoration immediately the Germans were driven out, was carried out by us.

"We all stayed in Moscow. The city was lovely in the winter of 1942. It seemed remarkably clean. It brought back fond memories of 1919, when Moscow, as now, demanded heroism and self-abnegation."

House Becomes Museum

Her face shining with these recollections, she suddenly said:

"Do you know, in 1920 Lenin visited the Khamovniki estate. After he had made the rounds, he said: 'The Tolstoy house is a national heritage. It must be preserved.' On that same day Lenin signed a decree granting permission to convert the house into a museum.

"The best proof of the solicitude of the Soviet Government for Tolstoy's legacy is the wartime budget assigned to the Tolstoy Museum, at a time when such expenditures are cut to the bone. The Soviet State allocated 871,000 rubles for the maintenance of the Tolstoy Museum during 1943. The rebuilding of the two demolished museums in Moscow and the reconstruction of Yasnaya Polyana will cost another 764,000 rubles. The Soviet people are tremendously fond of my grandfather. Over 56,000 people, including a large number of men and officers of the Red Army, flocked to Yasnaya Polyana after it was restored."

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The Breath of a Child

By Ilya Ehrenburg

certain writer recently asked me, "How can you
n for three years writing about one and the same
g?"

es, it is difficult. But it is more difficult to go on
ing for three years. History has not been graci-
to us. But let me say frankly that I cannot un-
dand how a man can now think about anything

else. The Germans, after all, are still in our land.
The Germans are still torturing our dear ones. The
German is not a literary theme—he is a calamity.
He is iron in the heart of every one of us.

For nearly three years now our men, far from their
homes and their dear ones, have been absorbed in
one thing only: fighting. They have known the icy



Leningrad children playing checkers in a kindergarten

winds of the Kalmyk steppes, the marshes of the Volkhov, the forests of Smolensk, the crags of Karelia, the acrid dust of the Ukrainian roads. They have known the howling of dive-bombers, six-barreled mortars and Tigers. It will soon be three years that they have been eating with death, sleeping with death and arguing with death.

I shall bless the day when we forget about the Germans. That will indeed be a wonderful day. I should like to be thinking about other things and writing about other things—about love and labor, about that which is thrice precious to me, art; about the woods outside Moscow, and about gray Paris.

But I see a ditch filled with children's corpses. I see ashes. I see the faces of mothers twisted with anguish, and all the woe of our land. And my thoughts always turn to that ruffian, tall or squat, pop-eyed, stupid and soulless, who marched hundreds of miles only to trample the life out of an infant in some out of the way Russian village.

If I had not enough hatred in my soul I should despise myself. But I have enough in me to last their lives and mine.

The human heart is a dark forest in which it is easy to get lost. Suddenly something flares up, or unexpectedly dies down. It happens that a man will cease to love a woman with whom he has lived half his life, or turn cold toward a bosom friend. But the dead must not be betrayed. They hover around you at night, and every dead man has his rights. They are all about us, tortured, mangled, strangled, near ones and distant ones, kinsmen and strangers, children, girls and old men.

They whisper, "We grew up. We laughed happily. We ate bread and gazed at the stars. We wanted to live. But we are no more. The Germans stuffed our mouths with frozen earth. The Germans slaughtered us. Tall or short, cruel, pale-eyed, empty-hearted—these Germans are now in Vitebsk and Nikolayev and Pskov. Do you see them?"

Yes, we see them. And we live for one thing only: to kill those Germans.

Near Tripolye, on the road to Obukhov, there is a ravine. Snow clings to a signboard on which is written: "Here, July 1, 1943, German butchers tortured to death and shot 700 persons—old men, women, mothers and children. Among them was Maria Bilykh with her five children and 65-year-old mother, and Dunya Gorbakha with her two sons." Dunya Gorbakha was carried away the night before. She begged to be allowed to say farewell to her children. The Germans laughed in reply. Then they brought her two sons to her. Volodya was seven, Kolya two. The Germans shot the children. Dunya Gorbakha did not utter a cry. She strode firmly to her death."

I did not know her, but I can see her, loving and gentle and with a proud heart.

Maria Bilykh's husband was far away from Tripolye. He was in the army. Maria was arrested in the daytime. That night there was a knocking at the cottage door. It was opened by Fedora, Maria's older sister. "Dress the children," she was told. "But you see they are asleep," Fedora objected. "Where are you going to take them?" "To their mother," she was told. Fedora brought out little blouses of the finest linen and dressed the drowsy children. Volodya, who was eleven, carried little two-year-old Fedya in his arms. They were followed by Tanyusha and Ganulya. Mikolka was stubborn. "I don't want to go. I want to sleep," he cried. He was dragged along by the belt.

Fedya asked Volodya, "Where are we going?" "To Mama." "And where's Mama?" Volodya said nothing. They were brought to a bluff overlooking the Dnieper. There they were cast alive into a ravine. And now, when the grave was opened, Volodya was found clasping little Fedya in his arms.

A letter arrived from Anton Bilykh. "Greetings to you, my dear fellow-villagers. Write and tell me how my wife Maria and the children are."

Who can forget those children in their little white blouses up there on the bluff? Who can forget the tragedy of Tripolye and the grief of our friend Anton Bilykh? Seven hundred persons slaughtered! But can figures tell of suffering? Why, each one of them had his life, his love, his home.

What are we to think about, if not about the Germans. Kill Germans! If not for the sake of my grief, then for the sake of little Mikolka, who wanted to sleep, and for the sake of everything Volodya suffered when he replied to his little brother, "We are going to Mama."

The word "ravine" was a good word—it spoke of grass, rivulet, sand and the big-eyed daisies which children used to pull apart murmuring, "He loves me, he loves me not." But the word "ravine" has become a terrible word. One feels that at any moment the dead will come stalking out of a ravine. And not only out of the ravine in Tripolye, for there is a ravine in Kiev, too . . . we shall not forget it till our death. Every Ukrainian town has its ravine and everywhere it is the same story: patches of under-linen, rigid corpses, children's toys sprinkled with blood.

No, he who can forget this is not human.

At the other end of our country, near the city of Novgorod, there was a village called Zamoshye. On January 14, 1944 the Germans in their retreat burned it down. They set fire to cottages with the people still in them. One hundred and seven persons were burned to death.

First the Germans herded the women and children into the cottage of Pavel Gadulin. They counted them—40 in all—and the German said, "Vierzig. Gut!"



These children, without parents or homes, were found in a liberated village of Smolensk Region

Radiophoto

When they drenched the house with petrol. Valeria Kulina, insane with terror, jumped out of the window. The German shot her. Her two children, a two-year-old Vanyusha and six-year-old Tanya, jumped out after her. They clung to their mother's body. The German shot the children.

When the Germans began setting fire to other cottages. The Zolotarev family were burned alive; they were all at home, from the old folk down to two-year-old Zhenya. In the neighboring cottage were two old women, Pimenova and Mitrofanova. They clasped their grandchildren to their breasts—seven-year-old Alyosha, four-year-old Volodya and two-year-old Tanya. "What are you doing?" cried Anastasia Pimenova, trying to protect little Alyosha. The German grinned and said, "Russ. Gut!"—then shot them with his tommy gun. Alyosha lived, but a bullet severed his hand and it had to be amputated. He was 10 years old, but he has known a world of an-
1.

In the town of Krasny, in the Smolensk Region, as in other towns, the Germans killed all the Jews. Let me tell you the fate of the Glushkin family. On August 8, 1941 the Germans arrested Boris Glushkin. They stripped him and tied him to a horse's tail. They tortured him a long time and then they killed

him. That night they came for his wife, Eugenia. She clasped her children in her arms. The Germans led her out of the house and raped her.

On April 8, 1942 the Germans herded all the Jews in the town into the square, ordered them to strip off their clothing and then began slaughtering them. Boris Glushkin's father, a man of 74, was the first. He carried his two-year-old grandson in his arms. Eugenia Glushkina had taken two of her children with her. The third, a year-old infant, she left in its cradle. She thought that fate might spare the child. When the massacre was ended, the Germans made a tour of the houses. They found tiny Alex in his cradle. The Germans dragged the infant into the street and dashed its head against the ice on the pavement. The commander of the squad ordered the body to be cut up and thrown to the dogs.

I can see that woman. She had nothing to live for. Her husband had been tortured to death, she had been raped, then she and her children were led to the slaughter. Her one thought was to save her infant: perhaps the Germans would overlook it.

As long as I live I will not forget the torments of Eugenia Glushkina and the infant in the cradle. He was not my child nor my grandchild. But I will not

forget him. I will not forget the children of Tripolye and Zamoshye, nor the children of Krasny. Why, they were our children, our hope, for which we lived our lives. They were killed. Germans killed them.

Perhaps one ought not to write about this for three years running. But a lifetime is not enough to outlive this hatred.

Here is what Sergeant Zarechensky writes me: "On September 8, 1941, I was wounded in Leningrad. I returned to my regiment. That was when the first snipers appeared among us. After my wound I partly lost the use of my right hand. I learned to shoot with the left and became a sniper. Then the right hand healed up. But on September 9, 1942 I was wounded again.

"When on January 22, 1944, the decision of the Medical Commission was read to me: 'Unfit for military service,' it sounded like a death warrant to me. They gave me a disability certificate, classifying me in the third group. But I firmly determined to return to the regiment. I realized that it would be hard without my left hand, but I could replace a healthy man in a pinch. What's more, I didn't lose hope of increasing my score of Germans killed. It was true that I could scarcely see out of my left eye, but the right eye is enough for a sniper.

"One thought tormented me while I was in the hospital: would the commander accept an invalid? I'm not a writer and I cannot describe my agitation when I went to see Lieutenant Colonel Apashkin. He examined my documents and inquired, 'Where do you intend to go?' Plucking up my courage I replied, 'I'm thinking of staying in the regiment.' He understood and approved.

"What induced me to return to the regiment? A terrible hatred of the Germans—that and only that. I come from the Donbas, so you will understand me."

And who does not understand Zarechensky? He is not a professional soldier. Before the war he had his peaceful job, his family, his dreams, his books. Now he is possessed by one overmastering passion—to exterminate Germans. When his right hand would not flex, he learned to shoot with the left. Then he lost his left hand and his left eye. But there was only one thing he begged for—to be allowed to remain in the ranks. He comes from the Donbas. Others come from the Ukraine and Byelorussia, but they will all understand Zarechensky—Leningraders, Muscovites, Siberians, Armenians and Uzbeks.

Who, when looking at the corpses of children, thinks of countries? Was this one Russian, this Ukrainian, this Jew? They were all children of our country and they were all our children. They were all killed by that malignant and sinister ruffian with iron crosses and an iron heart.

There have been blood-drenched periods in history before. There were the fires of the Inquisition. St. Bartholomew's Night has become a legend. The Old Believers were burned in their houses. But awful and repulsive as these crimes were, even they were illumined by a certain faith, by a furious fanaticism.

But for the sake of what did Hitler's soldiers slaughter millions of innocents? For the sake of what did they torture the children of Maria Bilykh, Anastasia Pimenova, Eugenia Glushkina and others, in Minsk, Essentuki, Novgorod, and Odessa?

If you ask a German this he will grin, or cry like a coward. He has nothing to say. He has neither ideas nor faith. He slew because he was told that Russia was legitimate prey. He slew because that was his mission, his justification, his whole life.

That is the most terrible thing about the atrocities of the Germans: they slaughtered millions of fine people for nothing at all—simply out of greed, stupidity, inborn ferocity. They were told, "When you cross the frontiers of the Reich, everything is permitted. There you'll find only subhumans and you are a superman." And the wretched idiot, ignoramus and nincompoop began methodically to hang, strangle, bury alive and burn. He is the "superman" all over.

And among the millions of Germans there was not to be found a handful of men of conscience to cry "Halt!" Among these "supermen" there was not a single man. And only the wailing of infants and groans of the dying mingled with the cracking of Tommy guns. Anger may cloud a man's reason and in a fit of uncontrollable passion he may commit a crime.

But the Germans have not even this justification: they murder coolly and calmly, as if they were playing a game or cracking nuts. They perpetrate atrocities with true German pedantry. They have perfected the art of murder, invented the "murder van," built barracks for asphyxiation with gases, manufactured poisonous liquids with which they anoint the lips of infants. They crowd around gallows clicking cameras, and jot down in notebooks the number of children killed and where.

What people of all the ages have deemed a terrible sin they have converted into an immense industry? They do not spin nor sow nor reap. They strangle, hang and poison. They do it without shame or a twinge of conscience.

A certain German Captain Saur wrote in a memorandum, "It is necessary to probe all around in houses with some firm instrument, as countless numbers of persons hide in well-concealed pits. It is recommended to enlist minors to point out these hiding places on promise that their lives will be spared." The captain recommends utilizing young children to

help in finding their mothers, and then to kill them all. He puts it tersely and in a businesslike tone, as if it were a question of looking for concealed potatoes.

But it is a question of murdering our wives and children.

Do you expect me to think of other things, to write of happiness, when this Captain Saur is still alive—when he is perhaps even now frightening a little girl and saying to her, "Show me where your mother is or I'll kill you."

How can we exact vengeance from the Germans? Our soldiers will never kill children. We cannot pay beasts back in kind. We are human beings. Not all their blood can outweigh the blood of a single child, of Fedya or Alyosha or Alex. But we will annihilate the miscreants. If they live, we cannot live—conscience would torment us.

There are many languages and many faiths on earth. The life of a Norwegian fisherman is different from the life of a Paris worker. The Englishman loves on Sundays to sit at home, whereas the Frenchman makes a point of going to the park or cinema with his entire brood and laughing loudly and heartily. There is a place for everybody under the sun. Perhaps the most splendid thing about life is its variety.

But there is no place on earth for fascists. If they survive after all this, then say goodbye to hope. Do not think of justice and do not fondle your child, for he is doomed.

The Germans will come forward with studied

speeches in their own defense and with sham tears; they have loopholes all ready when the fatal hour comes for them; they will betray their Fuehrer and a hundred others most prominent, while they retire into the background and dig themselves in; they will try to fool the world with penitential speeches, anathemas and greetings. No, it is impossible to think of this calmly! Sergeant Zarechensky is right; there is only one vent for our feelings, and that is to kill the miscreants.

Man was made for happiness, not to be slaughtered. How long is man given to live even in peacetime? Fifty years perhaps, or 60, and if he lives to 70 we say he has reached a ripe old age. Even a minute is precious, for it is given to us to rejoice in, to plant a tree, gaze at the pale blue sky, talk to a friend, embrace one's sweetheart. Flowers fade quickly and that is perhaps why they appeal to us more than anything in nature. But these have become terrible years. The flowers are being trampled underfoot and the children slain.

Life must be restored to the living. The dead must not be betrayed. We shall return to the flowers. And we shall talk of different things in all the fullness of human life. But this is not the time for it. Hate seethes in our hearts. And who dares cast a slur on this sentiment? It is a great flame fanned by love, fanned by the breath of that warm, sleepy child who did not realize he was being led to slaughter.

Let us cherish this flame to the end. Let us be firm. The tall, pale-eyed conscienceless ruffian must not live. We swear it!

TRIBUTE TO SOVIET WOMEN

At a great meeting in the Moscow Bolshoi Theater on March 8, attended by leading women Stakhanovites and representatives of science and art, as well as many women from the fighting fronts—including fliers, snipers, members of the Signal Corps, military surgeons and Red Army nurses—Klavdia Nikolayeva, Secretary of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions of the USSR, reported on the work of women in the Patriotic War.

"In the days of war," Nikolayeva stated, "the Soviet woman patriot has risen in all her greatness. Women are defending the motherland with arms, shoulder to shoulder with men. They have replaced husbands and brothers who are at the front, in industry, on the railways and in agriculture; and they are a decisive force in the all-important cause of supplying ammunition and food to the Red Army.

"The labor of Soviet women is materialized in the blast furnaces and open-hearth furnaces of Magnitostroi, in new towns and railways and in the tanks and planes with which Red Army men deal

crushing blows to the Hitlerite invaders."

Nikolayeva further spoke of the gallant struggle waged by Soviet women in the ranks of Red Army and guerrilla detachments. During the Patriotic War many thousands of women have been decorated with orders and medals and the title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred upon 23 women.

"We take pride," said Nikolayeva, "in the glorious names of the Heroes of the Soviet Union—the daring scout Nina Gnilitskaya; the Ukrainian girl Maria Shcherbachenko, who was one of the first to force the Dnieper; Galina Petrova, awarded the title for the forcing of the Kerch straits and participation in the landing operations, and others."

The meeting closed with a message of greeting to Supreme Commander-in-Chief Marshal Stalin, in which the Soviet women expressed their will and readiness to give all their strength, knowledge and abilities—and if need be, their lives—for the motherland.

THREE ANNIVERSARIES

By Nikolai Tikhonov

February of the year 1942 raged through a succession of brief, ashen-gray days, dying in crimson embers of sunset—through a succession of blue-black icy nights. The foot slipped on uneven ridges of ice; there was no gleam of light in the blizzard that whirled in whitening waves, whipping up fountains of snow. Through a momentary lull came the heavy clang of iron on iron.

Where was one? In the streets of a city—or at the front, a couple of paces from the enemy?

Men are striding through the murk, staggering along with guns. They are passing through streets. They are soldiers—and this is a city. The black pile that looms before you is a bridge, and on the bridge, patterned in frost and ice, stands a statue.

"Halt!" exclaims the statue. It is a sentry. No one passes over this bridge unchallenged. Here, where behind the stunted, snow-covered shrubbery rise charred stumps, low walls and trees with tops torn off; here where the clouds hang low in the smoky ragged sky, over the dead stillness; here where no human life can be seen—this is the Leningrad Front.

In dugouts beyond the ruins, figures muffled to the eyes in greenish, frog-colored overcoats, crouch around red-hot stoves. The teeth of these "invincible" soldiers of the Hitlerite army chatter with cold. But they have to go to the trenches for water, for wood, to man the guns. One German, bending low and thinking of nothing but that he is frozen to the stomach, steals out to gather sticks.

The silent wastes come to life. A thin whistle pierces the air—and the German is lying with his blue nose pointing skyward. Another goes hopping along toward an ice-hole, with a clatter of pails. Suddenly the pails go rolling away and the German slopes downward, his head nodding foolishly as he falls on his side. A third comes to take a sentry's place, and as he ducks quickly into the trench his neighbor notices a black hole in his head.

It looks as though winter is killing them on the run, as though they are playing some grim game. But it is not winter—it is not a game. Russian snipers are shooting the Germans in broad daylight, at dawn and at twilight.

A young fellow enters a Red Army dugout. He is scowling; there is fire in his gray eyes. This is a man who has brought death on the Germans' heads; this is Feodosi Smolyachkov, who has killed 125 Germans with 126 bullets. It was he who set the ball of

revenge rolling; he who lit the fire of retribution in the tormenting cold of that winter. Bezhlivtsev, Golichenkov, Kalinin, Loskutov, Sinyavin—these are the best snipers of all. From their bullets hundreds of Germans lie dead in the snow. The list has passed a thousand; it is going into its second thousand.

Thus passed the Red Army's first anniversary on the Leningrad Front.

* * *

The days are cloudy, bringing winter in their train. Another blizzard, light and feathery, blankets the ground. Between low banks stretches an endless white lake. Forests vanish into the gathering dusk. Along a ridge men flounder through the snow, now pausing to look about them, with their tommy guns at the ready and revolvers drawn. More men emerge from the twilight, from the opposite direction. They pay no heed to wind, storm or twilight. Both draw closer. Now they are quite near each other.

And in a flash it all becomes clear—wonderfully clear. What both these detachments have dreamed of in sleepless hours and hurried meals, amid the roar of explosions and groans of wounded—has happened at last!

They rush toward each other, pull off their caps and throw them into the air, hug each other, laugh, cry and shout.

"It's the boys from Volkhov!"

"It's the boys from Leningrad!"

That was how the men of the Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts met. That was how the blockade was broken.

* * *

A huge, tired man sits at a table in a little cottage and stares at a map. Around him lie the ruins of an old Russian town—Schluesselburg—which has been taken by his division. The man is Trubachev, and his soldiers have gone on ahead to a point from which shots are still heard and where the Germans are still trying to hold their last line.

Another man trudges through the night snows between the artillery pieces, and every salvo makes his ears ring—every salvo rejoices his heart. This is Simonyak, whose soldiers are now Guardsmen—having earned a Guardsman's glory in these burned and splintered woods.

Enemy planes drone over the city. Searchlights

ing their archangel's swords across the skies. The sty air is rent with the roar of anti-aircraft guns. Outside there is only emptiness and snow, but indoors people stand beside their radios, listening, afraid to say a word. Old and young are weeping, unashamed of their tears.

"The blockade is broken!" they exclaim.

That was 1943!

* * *



Nevsky Prospekt, Leningrad—A scene during the fascist shelling of the city. Women medical workers remove the body of a wounded civilian

Another eventful year of great and small happenings goes by. February 23—day of glory and victory—comes again.

A strange winter, and a strange landscape. This is now, but not the snow we have been accustomed to. It is either black or rusty, or even a deep crimson with gray pillboxes sticking up here and there,

wrecked guns with their muzzles directed skyward, tanks with black crosses heeled over on their sides, German corpses spreading in a giant fan to the horizon itself.

Through the rat-a-tat of incessant shots, Simonyak's Guardsmen are running toward the little houses where trench mortars are still firing and bullets still whistling.

This is Krasnoye Selo.

The men who took Schluesselburg—Trubachev's men—are advancing along a birch avenue where the tree trunks are gray with age. And should old comrades meet now, they can say, "Outside Leningrad we saw for ourselves how the Red Army has grown and strengthened. The soldier of 1942, who clenched his teeth as he lay for hours in the snow watching the Germans, has grown into the soldier who dashed across the Neva in four minutes and took the German fortifications by storm. In January, 1944, this soldier has become a fighter whom nothing can daunt, who finds nothing beyond his strength. There is not another like him."

February 23, 1944. The walls of Ivangorod look down on soldiers of a new Soviet type—such soldiers as the world has never seen. The roar of our mortars carries to the walls of ancient Pskov.

Freedom is coming with the warriors of old, who have arisen from the dead to fight again the battle on the ice. The black wings of defeat brush the German army—fleeing west but never escaping—for Soviet regiments are hard on its heels. Along every road death and disgrace lie in wait for the enemy.

You will remember these days—German. You who once marched singing and whooping, and now try to make your escape with tongue in cheek. You were smart in those days, in your uniform of stolen cloth. Now you resemble a beggar wrapped in rags. And the place where you thought to remain as a landlord will be your graveyard.

The Red Army that celebrated its third war anniversary with resounding victories in the north and south is forging ahead. It leaves in its wake the exultation of the Soviet people. Against the clear dawn of the winter day rises the mighty city of life and liberty—the city of Lenin—giving strength and courage to the people.

Soviet units approaching the Pskov lines hear the roar of the guns raking the Germans beyond Krivoi Rog. Soviet troops are advancing! The thunder of victory salutes fills the air. The sun of victory is rising—the great Russian sun.

Notes from Front and Rear

On March 1, many thousands of guerrillas passed under the triumphal arch of the Narva Gate on their return to Leningrad from the liberated districts of Leningrad Region. These, however, were only a part of the guerrilla forces; the remainder continue their work of clearing the Region of the German invaders. Since the beginning of the Soviet offensive on the Leningrad Front, guerrilla detachments have killed about 2,500 German officers and men, destroyed 5,600 pieces of rail and 65,000 meters of telegraph and telephone lines, and have blown up nine locomotives, 500 trucks, 102 guns and other war materiel.

★

The Baltic Fleet has an "Educational Ship" on which lectures and discussions on various subjects are held. In the past six months the ship has also given 300 film showings and 16 concerts by well-known Moscow and Leningrad artists. There is a library on board, with current newspapers and magazines, and photographic displays of recent naval actions.

★

In the preparatory work for the rebuilding of Kiev, 350 housewives of the Lenin District were the first volunteers. They were followed by factory workers, students, school children and office employees. The Kiev volunteers have already sorted thousands of cubic meters of rubble and loaded it on freight cars or trucks, and stacked hundreds of thousands of bricks and hundreds of tons of metal.

★

In a recent engagement, 16 Soviet guns firing from positions in a ravine were attacked on the flank by 70 German tanks. The battle lasted for an entire day. Twenty-five of the enemy tanks were destroyed and the remainder finally routed.

★

Recent arrivals at the Donbas mines include a number of girls, who are working at the coal face and achieving high production. Among the most outstanding workers is Nina Kuzmenko, who recently cut six times the quota in one day. Another girl trebled the quota and still another doubled it. These girls have now challenged each other to socialist competition.

Guards Major Andrei Chirkov, Hero of the Soviet Union, was the first Leningrad flier to shoot down a German plane on the first day of the war. The plane was a Heinkel 111. Since that time Chirkov has "collected" German aircraft of all types—and now has 26 specimens to his credit.

★

Dmitri Shostakovich, who composed his *Seventh* and *Eighth Symphonies* since the war began, is now working on a new symphony and other compositions. In addition, he has completed the music for the pantomime "Stalingrad," now being prepared by the Central Song and Dance Ensemble of the Club of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, and is working on the music for Marshak's story, "Twelve Months," which will shortly be presented at the Moscow Art Theater, and the music for a film dedicated to the famous guerrilla heroine, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. Besides his creative work, Shostakovich, a Professor of the Moscow Conservatory, teaches a composers' group whose members come from the various national Republics, and also acts as chief consultant on all music problems for the State Committee on Art.

★

Factory and vocational schools in the coal districts of the USSR are preparing to open a number of special schools for miners. There will be 81 of these schools in the Donbas and many others in the Eastern and Central districts.

★

Thousands of priority buildings are going up in Uzbekistan, in Soviet Central Asia. Metal and timber are scarce, and architects and Uzbek builders have resorted to the ancient lore of their forefathers, using centuries-old building methods and traditional materials. A new theater now being built in Tashkent, the capital, is a structure of charming brick arches and cupolas, the work of a group of venerable master builders headed by Yusuf Musayev. These old men have inherited the skill of their ancestors who built the marvelous mosques and other architectural monuments of the East. Each of the fantastic cupolas of the theater roof is an individual masterpiece, the expression of a fine traditional folk art.

★

The Air Medical Service of the Red Army brings hundreds of wounded guerrillas from the German rear for hospital treatment, and transports thousands of liters of blood and tons of medical supplies to the guerrilla units.

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Resources of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic

The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic held its sessions from March 1 to March 4. The session approved the 1944 budget for the Republic and enacted laws for the organization of Union Republican Commissariats of Defense and Foreign Affairs. Nikolai Shvernig was elected Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic.

* * *

The Russian SFSR covers an area of 16,867,000

kilometers, with a population of 109,000,000. Moscow, the Capital, has a population of 4,137,000. The Republic occupies most of the northern and central part of the USSR. It is bordered by the Arctic Ocean, the Black Sea, the plains of Mongolia, the Baltic Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

The natural resources of the Russian SFSR are incalculable. Its seas and lakes teem with fish; vast herds of reindeer graze on its northern pastures; its forests are the largest in the world; it abounds in



A Soviet mother sends her third son to the Red Army. One son, a flier, is now a Hero of the Soviet Union

fertile plains with rivers flowing for thousands of kilometers and containing inexhaustible resources of cheap power; it has colossal deposits of minerals of the most varied kinds. Its coal, estimated at 1,500 billion tons, represents 18 per cent of the world's deposits. It possesses one-half the world's iron deposits (with quartzites), millions of tons of precious and rare non-ferrous metals, vast deposits of chemical raw materials and non-metallic minerals (salts, apatite, nepheline, graphite, mica, marble and other building materials). Its peat deposits, the largest in the world, are estimated at 150 billion tons.

The Russian SFSR is the largest Republic of the USSR, representing 75 per cent of its area, and over 50 per cent of its total population. It is more developed economically than any other Union Republic and is foremost among its peers in political, economic and cultural importance. Before the outbreak of the present war, the Russian SFSR accounted for 70 per cent of the industrial and agricultural output of the USSR—about 20 per cent of its oil, over 40 per cent of its coal, about 40 per cent of its pigiron, over 50 per cent of its steel, two-thirds of its electric power, and the bulk of its output of machinery, timber, textiles, grain and technical crops and food products.

Moscow, Capital of the USSR and the Russian SFSR as well, is the seat of Government and Administration: the Supreme Soviets of the USSR and Russian SFSR. The most important scientific and cultural institutions are in Moscow.

The Russian SFSR is a union of fraternal nations headed by Russians, which assists all nations of the Soviet Union in their economic and cultural development. It is made up of more than a hundred nations and nationalities: the Tatar, Bashkir, Chuvash, Yakut, Buryat-Mongolian, Lezghin, Kabardinian, Balkarian, Kalmyk, Komi, Mari, Mordovian, Ossetian, Chechen, Ingush, Cherkess, Oirot, Khakass, Evenk (Tungus), Lubravetlan (Chukchi), Nentsi (Samoyed) and others. The Soviet system has created for every one of these nationalities the opportunity for economic and cultural development.

The Russian SFSR includes 15 Autonomous Republics, six Autonomous Regions and 10 national areas. Formerly a land of poverty and ignorance, it is now a flourishing and prosperous Republic.

Under the Tsarist regime there were 70 higher educational establishments in Russia. Today there are 470 in the Russian SFSR, and over 50,000 public libraries, more than 550 museums, 450 theaters, over 400 scientific research institutes and thousands of other scientific institutions. Moscow, seat of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, is the hub of Soviet science.

By 1938 about 6,000 newspapers were published in the Russian SFSR in the languages of all its different

nationalities. Elementary education is compulsory. Under Tsarist Russia only 24 per cent of the population was literate. For the first time in their history, nationalities like the Cherkess, Bashkir, Buryat-Mongolian, Kalmyk and Chechen have their own national culture. The people of the Russian SFSR, like those of the entire Union, cherish the great culture of the Russian people who have produced such remarkable writers as Pushkin, Tolstoy, Gorky and Mayakovsky; such composers as Glinka, Tchaikovsky and Borodin; such painters as Surikov and Repin, and scientists of the stature of Sechenov, Mendeleyev and Pavlov.

Formerly the development of modern industry was confined to only a few centers in the European part of the country. But today Soviet Russia is a powerful industrial state. In 1937 the industrial output of the Russian SFSR, amounting to 66 billion rubles, was 8.5 times that of Russia in 1913. Since the advent of Soviet power large industrial centers have been developed in the Urals, western Siberia and other eastern regions of the Republic. When war broke out the industrial plants were evacuated from the area of military operations to the East, and large new enterprises were built, making it possible to supply the Red Army with all kinds of modern equipment.

The Russian SFSR is also a land of large-scale highly mechanized agriculture based on the industrialization and collectivization of farming. The cultivated area of the Russian SFSR amounts to nearly 100,000,000 hectares, on which wheat, rye, oats, barley, millet, flax, hemp, sunflower, potato and other crops are grown. The fields of the Russian SFSR are plowed by 300,000 tractors and reaped by over 100,000 harvester combines. The country possesses vast numbers of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, camels and domesticated deer. During the war, thanks to the system of collective farming the farmers have been able to provide the Red Army and the civilians in the rear with necessary food supplies.

In the past, Russia was intersected by only a few railways, beyond which stretched vast tracts of roadless country. Since the establishment of Soviet power the Russian SFSR has been covered with tens of thousands of kilometers of railways and automobile roads, and its most important rivers and sea routes are now linked by navigable canals. The Great Northern Sea Route was opened. The large cities of the Republic have grown enormously, the foremost being Moscow and Leningrad, and a great number of new cities have been built, such as Magnitogorsk, population 146,000; Stalinogorsk, 76,000; Komsomolsk, 70,000, Kirovsk and Magadan.

In the present great Patriotic War the peoples of the Russian SFSR, headed by the Russian nation, are in the vanguard of the great Army of the Soviet Union which is fighting to drive the fascist hordes beyond the frontiers of its native land, fighting for its honor, freedom and independence.

HISTORY TEACHES A LESSON

By Colonel A. Kadishev

The Germans expected an easy victory when in 1918 they hurled enormous forces into the Ukraine. The organized Soviet troops there did not exceed 15,000 to 20,000 men. The Germans considered themselves already the full-fledged masters of the Ukraine, Don and Caucasus.

The Ukraine and the Caucasus had an important part in German strategic plans. Not only were they to provide Germany with vitally needed food products, coal and fuel, but were to offer a direct threat to British interests in the Middle East and India and thus force Great Britain to transfer troops from the Western Front. Thus the progress of the struggle in

their forces over an enormous area and to concentrate troops mainly in towns and along communication lines.

The guerrilla movement became particularly widespread, and in May and June of 1918 incessant fighting against the invaders went on around Kiev, Chernigov, Poltava and Kharkov. On June 25 Count Forgacz, Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in Kiev, reported to his government in Vienna: "German and Austro-Hungarian troops are constantly being forced to fight exhausting battles, which sometimes entail considerable casualties." The guerrillas also drove the Germans from the towns and destroyed their garrisons. The scale attained by the fighting may be measured by the fact that about 50,000 men took part in a battle at Steblevo near Kiev in the latter part of July.

The flames of the national rebellion swept across the Ukraine; powerful guerrilla detachments and popular militia were organized. Near the so-called neutral zone bordering on Soviet Russia, regular Ukrainian troops were formed, led by men who were to become heroes of the Civil War—Shchors, Bozhenko, Chernyak.

The newly-formed Ukrainian Revolutionary War Council with Joseph Stalin at its head coordinated all military operations against the Germans. Regular Red Army troops assumed the offensive and with the active aid of the guerrillas quickly drove out the Germans. The small Soviet forces routed the supposedly invincible German army; the panic-stricken invaders ignominiously took to their heels, abandoning weapons and loot. That was how the German efforts in 1918 to subjugate the free Soviet peoples ended.

Hitler saw fit to ignore the historical lesson. The would-be conqueror of the world bit off more than he could chew. With boundless arrogance and stupid self-confidence he decided to enslave the Soviet people. But human progress cannot be stopped. Under certain conditions territory can be temporarily captured by force, but it cannot be held by force. Free peoples cannot with impunity be turned into slaves.

History repeated its lesson. Only a little over a year ago the Nazis were in Stalingrad and near Vladikavkaz, in Rostov and near Voronezh. They already considered the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Baltic countries to be a part of Germany's "living space" for all time. And today they have been hurled back from Stalingrad over a distance of more than 1,400 kilometers. The day is not far off when the Soviet land will be entirely cleared of the barbarous enemies of humanity.



Colonel Korkouts, Commander of a Division of the Sixth Guards Cavalry Corps

the Ukraine in 1918 had international significance and strongly influenced the outcome of the First World War. It is to the credit of the Soviet people that the Ukraine, despite great difficulties, not only maintained its independence, but disrupted the German plans of conquest in the East.

When the Germans launched this drive they considered only the weak Soviet armed forces. They overlooked the people, and it was the people who won the decision in the struggle. The deeper the Germans penetrated into Ukrainian territory the more difficult their position became. They were forced to scatter

Medical and Hygiene Service of the Red Army

By Professor N. Propper-Grashchenko

Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR

The Medical and Hygiene Service of Red Army formations carries out all medical and hygiene measures relating to the housing—permanent or temporary—food, clothing, etc., of the respective units. Besides specific prophylactic measures against infectious diseases, such as inoculation, lectures are delivered to the men with the aim of raising their knowledge of hygiene.

The Red Army Medical and Hygiene Service is the military counterpart of the civil Health Department. And just as there is not a single spot in the vast territory of our country without its civil health service assistant, surgeon, midwife or nurse, so all Red Army units, down to the smallest, have their medical personnel. The smallest units have their assistant surgeon, who also acts as hygiene instructor, and under battle conditions as medical orderly.

Within the boundaries of each front is a system of base hospitals. All military institutions and units in the rear have their own medical and hygiene services and their own network of military hospitals, clinics and first-aid stations. In addition there is a whole network of surgical, therapeutical and special hospitals where sick and wounded officers and men are completely restored to health. These hospitals, which are located in regions adjoining the front, or deeper in the interior, are administered by the People's Commissariat of Health and its central and local organs. There are also special hospitals to take care of the slightly wounded, in rear areas of the respective armies and fronts. Thus the Red Army at the front makes use not only of its own medical and hygiene service, but also of the civil health services.

The Red Army Medical Service is distinguished by the presence of qualified surgeons in the battle areas, and by the removal of all wounded from the battlefield, no matter how grave their wounds. By a special decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest orders of the Soviet Union are awarded medical orderlies for removing specified numbers of wounded and their weapons from the battlefield, regardless of the condition of the wounded. It is a well-known fact that our enemies with characteristic callousness do not remove the seriously wounded from the battlefield, they being of no use to the army, since as a rule they offer scant hope of returning to active service, and medical care for such men is a lengthy and costly affair.

Representatives of every branch of medical science—stomatology, neuro-pathology, neuro-surgery, ophthalmology, urology and orthopedics, roentgenology, physiotherapy and other specialties—are working in the front-line areas. All our medical workers,

whether in permanent service with the Red Army or mobilized in wartime (the latter being in the overwhelming majority), are imbued with a single aim—to render the best possible aid to sick and wounded officers and men, to save their lives and enable them to regain their working and fighting capacity. Due to this organization of the Red Army Medical Service, more than 70 per cent of the wounded are returned to the front—a figure unparalleled in any war.



Marine Field Nurse Alexandra Tavetkova, serving on the Northern Front, has saved the lives of more than 50 wounded men, removing them from the battlefield under fire

We medical workers are proud to be contributing our theoretical and practical knowledge of medical service to the Red Army, thus doing our bit to help our Army win its gigantic victories over the treacherous enemy of our country and all mankind.

KOK-SAGYZ—Rubber-yielding Plant

By S. Fling

After the establishment of the Soviet State, the new Soviet industry, set squarely on the rails of a planned national economy, rapidly got under way and soon began to forge full steam ahead. One consequence of this was that the demand for rubber increased by leaps and bounds. Rubber was required by the chemical industry and by the electrical, automobile and aircraft industries. The more up-to-date the factories became, the greater was their demand for rubber.

Owing to its peculiar qualities, rubber was considered as being absolutely irreplaceable. In Russia there were neither rubber trees nor factories producing synthetic rubber, and the commodity had to be imported. The price of rubber was constantly rising.

The Soviet Government announced an All-Union competition for the best method of achieving the industrial production of synthetic rubber. Winner of the competition was Professor Lebedev, who devised a method for producing synthetic rubber from spirits.

Things were not allowed to rest here, however, and the search for a more satisfactory solution to the problem went on. Potatoes, the raw material used by Lebedev, were far too valuable, and so the production of rubber from limestone was begun. The Soviet Union became one of the world's largest manufacturers of synthetic rubber.

But the rubber problem was not yet settled. Natural rubber was still required for the manufacture of quite a number of things. Apart from this, synthetic rubber is several times more expensive than natural rubber.

At last the solution was found. Quite unexpectedly a simple weed was discovered which might replace the exotic rubber tree. . . . When I showed a root of kok-sagyz to a friend of mine, he took it doubtfully in his hand, sniffed at it, laughed and said: "Well, I can't see anything wonderful about this. It smells a bit like old galoshes. Nothing very interesting about it, as far as I can see."

This is what many people say when they are faced with an unusual phenomenon. And kok-sagyz is a very unusual phenomenon. It is a plant strangely like an ordinary dandelion and, in fact, a close relation of that plant. During the past 10 years the history of this plant has been closely interwoven with the destiny of many millions of Soviet people, and in the present war it is playing a role of no small importance.

How can one remain indifferent to a story written by life itself?

Rubber Hunters

In the 30's of this century, when the problem of industrial independence was in the forefront of the order of the day, the guaranteeing of a home supply of rubber for the Soviet Union became a vital question.

At that time, about 14 years ago, "rubber hunters" made their appearance in the steppes of Kazakhstan, in the mountains of the Caucasus and in the desert regions of Kirghizia, scrutinizing every "suspected" piece of ground, where there was any hope of finding rubber-yielding plants. During these years more than 1,000 varieties of plants were studied.

Rubber had become a sort of noble sport for many people. The search for it was engaged in mainly by amateurs.

The scientists, for their part, believed almost without exception in the dogma that plants having a high rubber content, such as, for example, the rubber tree (hevea), could grow exclusively in the sub-tropic zone. They considered that the natural conditions obtaining in the Soviet Union were such that any attempt at finding or acclimatizing such a plant was doomed to failure from the outset.

It turned out to be the dilettantes and dreamers, however, who were right. As early as 1929 the assistant manager of Kara-Chokat Station in Kazakhstan and an assistant surgeon, Karys, in Azerbaidjan, discovered hondrilla. In the same year, Zaretsky, a worker from the Rubber trust, found a plant called tau-sagyz ("chewing-grass") in the Kara-Tau mountains.

The gulf was bridged. It was now necessary to find a plant with a high rubber content which answered to the requirements of industry.

In July, 1931, six young people occupied a carriage on the Moscow-Frunze express. Their sportsman-like physique and capacious rucksacks might have led one to suppose that they were tourists or mountaineers. The documents they carried, however, stamped them as something different. The senior of the six passengers was only too willing to display, whenever he got an opportunity, a certificate to the effect that this was a scientific research expedition on its way to central Tien-Shan. These were rubber prospectors.

Bukhanevich, the leader of the expedition, was twenty-two years old. By trade he was a worker in

a Moscow aniline factory. True, he had distinguished himself there as an accurate, painstaking and conscientious worker, but none of his comrades ever suspected that he had in him the makings of a research worker and explorer.

For some time people had noticed that Bukhanevich was in the habit of disappearing into the library immediately after work, and sitting there for hours on end. Bukhanevich read according to a definite plan: geology, geography and botany. In addition to this he attended the lectures at the Rubber Institute. All this had a mysterious flavor, particularly as Bukhanevich began at the same time practising sports and outdoor activities. Horseback riding and long hikes took up all his time on days off.

Bookworm and sportsman—this was certainly an unusual combination.

In spring the bomb-shell burst. When one of his friends asked him how he intended spending his summer holidays, Bukhanevich said:

"In the Tien-Shan mountains."

"What are you going there for?"

"For rubber-bearing plants."

Bukhanevich was no dreamer, nor had he any great craving for adventure. When he set out for the mountains thousands of miles away, he was not inspired by Jules Verne or Mayne Reid. Bukhanevich knew there was no natural rubber in the country, that it was difficult to do without it in peacetime, and impossible in wartime.

At Frunze, Bukhanevich and his comrades got out of the train and, passing the picturesque Issyk-Kul Lake fringed round with impenetrable forests, plunged deep into the trackless Tien-Shan mountains. The young prospectors put plenty of energy into their expedition. They climbed steep mountain slopes, descended into deep ravines. Not a blade of grass escaped their attention. The herbarium of the expedition swelled to unheard-of proportions. But, frankly speaking, the results were not imposing. The herbarium contained only a few unknown plants, and the rubber content of these was small.

The end of their holiday was drawing near when the honor of the expedition was saved by the keen eyes of Bukhanevich and . . . a lucky chance. He noticed that all the plants which the local inhabitants used to chew contained rubber. They used them like chewing-gun. In the village where the prospectors were due to spend their last night in the mountains they noticed some children chewing away at a certain plant with particular relish. This aroused their suspicions. A test for rubber gave excellent results. The unknown plant had a higher rubber content than any other plant yet discovered.

"What do you call this plant?" asked Bukhanevich eagerly.

"It hasn't got a name, it's just ordinary chewing grass—kok-sagyz," was the indifferent reply.

Scientists, Organizers—and the Plant Itself

Scientists and workers of the Rubber trust were given the task of carrying out the first large-scale planting of kok-sagyz in 1933. It was not a question of acclimatizing a known plant. The English had taken more than 20 years to acclimatize the Brazilian hevea in Ceylon. The Mexican shrub guayule had been studied, many years before rubber was obtained from it, on the Firestone plantations in Liberia. Ford's laboratories also worked many years before they were able to establish new plantations in Brazil.

But how much more difficult was the task with which Soviet scientists were faced! Kok-sagyz, krymsagyz and tau-sagyz were quite new plants, unknown even to the botanists. In a word, the problem was one of cultivating an entirely wild plant and transforming it into a plantation culture capable of providing raw material for mass technical production.

Soviet scientists handled the task with which they were confronted in a brilliant manner. In record time they forced the new plant to disclose all its secrets: the process of its development, the conditions required to adapt it to climate and soil, and its resistance to various blasts. They established the most favorable seasons for planting and gathering, the best principles of selection, etc.

The bloodless war for one of the most important raw materials had been won. The rubber problem, whose history is one long list of conflicts and crises, had been peacefully solved in the Soviet Union. The combined results of the research work of scientists and the observations of practical workers was that kok-sagyz had won the championship. What were the qualities which enabled kok-sagyz to outdo so many rivals?

In the early years the most important question was one of seeds. The rubber-bearing plants previously tested produced but small quantities of seeds, and this was a serious hindrance to cultivating them on anything like a large scale. This was a time when the agronomists insisted on every single seed being collected.

Suddenly the position was reversed with the discovery of kok-sagyz. Bountiful nature had made this plant exceptionally fruitful (there were no less than three to three and one-half million seeds to the kilogram). Planting over a large area now became feasible. But this was not all. Whereas for example,

sagyz demanded a high-quality soil and grew best all in black soil, kok-sagyz would grow anywhere. The exotic guayule, in its turn, was too sensitive to pests and could not, therefore, compete with kok-sagyz, which is equally hardy in frost and heat. Nor is it so dangerous to this astonishing plant, which displays a high power of resistance in combating them. All this led to a considerable portion of the thousands of acres set aside for rubber cultivation being planted with kok-sagyz.

Kok-sagyz is a plant that requires plenty of look-after," says agronomist Vorontsov, district kok-sagyz specialist.

The plant requires great attention, especially during the first period of its development. If the seeds are planted too deep, they don't come up. Weeds quickly choke them, and for this reason land relatively free from weeds has to be selected. Frequent weeding and a constant struggle against the encroachment of weeds are the conditions by which a good yield is secured. A good crop also depends on the promptness with which the proper times of planting and weeding are observed. If you are a bit late in weeding the seeds, the wind carries them away and your work has been in vain.

Vorontsov, however, does not say how difficult it is to popularize kok-sagyz among certain collective farmers, who listened incredulously to the stories they were told about this new plant, with which they had never come into contact before. During the last year the men were obliged to wage a constant struggle against the weeds which threatened to choke out

of existence the frail newcomer from the Tien-Shan mountains.

Vorontsov remembers that time with a smile. Kok-sagyz is not only bringing large incomes to the collective farmers but it has also proved a stimulus in the cultural growth of the villages. People working on the cultivation of kok-sagyz have acquired new qualifications in agriculture.

Postscript

In the *British Ally* (Moscow), (*Britansky Soyuznik*), C. Ridley wrote:

"The Soviet Union has sent us some kok-sagyz seed which is now being cultivated in the London Botanical Gardens. It will subsequently be planted in various parts of Great Britain on land that has already been selected for this purpose. Kok-sagyz, unlike the rubber tree, grows freely in the latitude of Moscow and can, therefore, be cultivated throughout the territory of Great Britain.

"The Soviet Union, after only 12 years' work on kok-sagyz, has been able to send seeds to many Allied countries: to India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States of America."

My article was already written when I learned of this, but it occurred to me that many kok-sagyz enthusiasts would be interested to know that the Allied countries, which formerly enjoyed a world monopoly in rubber, are now cultivating rubber-bearing plants imported from a country which 12 years ago produced absolutely no natural rubber of its own.

Guerrillas Suffer Few Casualties in Action

The following article is by the chief surgeon of a guerrilla detachment:

After a six-week raid in Western Byelorussia, our detachment struck camp in a locality held by 10 other guerrilla detachments. The enemy garrisons sat still in their quarters and only dared sally into the forest for large formations. There were no Germans in the surrounding villages. This was the "Little Land," located hundreds of kilometers from the front line.

During our first days there we had to visit neighboring detachments to render aid to the wounded and to the guerrillas. There were very few doctors in these detachments and no surgeons. The local population needed medical aid badly. Almost all the villages had been burned down by the Germans, and the few farmers who escaped lived in dugouts in the forests. I treated a young woman whose arm hung

by a shred of skin: the Germans had broken it when she rushed to save her two children who were flung alive into a burning building. The two little boys had only just been picked up amid the ruins and corpses of the burned village. Both had bone fractures and bullet wounds in their legs and arms. A young boy of another detachment was brought to me with a huge burn. The Germans had shot his family and locked him in their burning cottage, but he climbed out through the roof and saved himself.

As a rule, guerrillas suffer comparatively few casualties in action. In one recent engagement a German-Magyar detachment which dared to approach the guerrilla territory lost 85 men in casualties. The guerrillas had one killed and only a few slightly wounded. The man who was killed had got far ahead and was cut off from his group. He was wounded in both legs, and to avoid being taken prisoner blew himself up with a hand grenade.

French Normandie Squadron in USSR Honored

In a little more than a year on the Soviet-German front, the Normandie Air Unit of the Fighting French has acquired an excellent reputation. In a recent interview with Soviet press correspondents, Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Pouyade, commander of the unit, recalled that the Normandie fliers came to the USSR at the end of 1942.

"Since the first days of our stay here," said Lieutenant Colonel Pouyade, "the French fliers have appreciated the warm and cordial attitude of the Red Army men and officers and the people. Mutual sympathy and close friendship have arisen between us and our Soviet colleagues. Here, far from our country, which many of us have not seen for three or four years, we do not feel lonely. We have at our disposal excellent Soviet fighter planes which our fliers, familiar with many types of aircraft, consider the best.

"We are happy and proud to have taken part in the victorious battles for Orel, Yelnya and Smolensk. We are deeply grateful to the Soviet Government for the planes placed in our hands, and for affording us the opportunity to fight on the Soviet-German front for the liberation of our homeland, continuing the struggle against the common enemy which we began in 1939 in France."

Lieutenant Colonel Pouyade has served in the aviation forces for 14 years. Since the outbreak of war between France and Hitlerite Germany he has been fighting at the front. As a battle-seasoned officer he was given command of the air unit fighting in the ranks of the Red Army by the French Committee of National Liberation. He has personally shot down seven German planes, and has been honored with the French Orders of the Legion of Honor, the Military Cross and the Cross of Liberation—the highest decorations of the Fighting French—and also with the Soviet Order of the Red Banner.

Fliers from various parts of France and the French possessions—North Africa, Madagascar and Indo-China—volunteered for the unit and are now fighting in its ranks.

Captain Didier Maurice Beguin, despite his 26 years, is a professional officer of the French army. In the summer of 1940, at the time of Petain's surrender, Beguin and six other young men seized a plane and escaped to England, to continue the struggle against the Germans. Over the English Channel, at the approaches to London and later on the Soviet-German front, he has shot down seven enemy planes.

Flier Roland de la Pouape has his own score to settle with the Nazis. In May of 1940 his father

was killed fighting the Germans on the Somme. Later his mother died on occupied territory. The talented young flier shot down his first German plane in a dog-fight over England, and has accounted for seven more on the Soviet-German front. The tunic of the 23-year-old lieutenant is decorated with two French orders and the Order of the Red Banner.

Lieutenant Rissot is a native of Marseilles. In the summer of 1940 he was in North Africa. He flew to Gibraltar, but had to make a forced landing in Spain, where he was arrested by the Franco police and put in jail in Madrid. He escaped from jail and got to Barcelona, where he shipped as dishwasher on a freighter which took him to Egypt and later to Syria. Fighting in the Normandie Air Unit, he has brought down nine enemy planes.

Lieutenant Marcel Albert and Lieutenant Marcel Lefevre have the highest scores of all the Normandie fliers. The former has shot down 16 German planes and the latter 14. Between them they have reduced the strength of German aviation by more than three squadrons.

On the same day the Normandie fliers received Soviet decorations, General Petit, head of the French Military Mission in the USSR, presented five of them—Beguin, Albert, Lefevre, Rissot and de la Pouape—with the Order of the Legion of Honor, and read the order decorating the Normandie Military Unit with the Cross of Liberation.

Leningrad Restores River Shipping

With unprecedented speed the people of Leningrad are restoring their river shipping, which in the spring and summer will handle a large amount of freight. Shipping will begin this spring on rivers whose banks were only recently held by the Germans. All passenger landing stages and piers at Novgorod and Schluesselburg were destroyed by the invaders, and construction of floating piers to replace stationary types is now being completed. One shipyard has already turned out a floating dock. A huge merchant flotilla will soon be launched on the rivers.

Work on the salvaging of submerged ships is proceeding at a rapid pace. Huge holes have been cut in the ice, and divers are busy in spite of the chilling water. Many Finnish ships have been raised to the surface.

The Lake Ladoga flotilla is also preparing for the shipping season. A large number of girls are attending courses opened by the Lake Ladoga flotilla for training as captains, mates and mechanics.

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German Destruction of Art Treasures of Peterhof, Pushkin, Pavlovsk and Gatchina

Our joy at the liberation of district after district from the German invaders is invariably overshadowed by new evidence of atrocities against the civilian population and ruthless destruction of works of art. Not only have masterpieces of architectural genius been damaged, misused and defiled, but in

many cases they have been deliberately blown up or so thoroughly wrecked and mutilated there can be no hope of restoring them.

The German vandals, in their impotent rage at being routed by the Red Army, are apparently guided



A church in Leningrad, built by the famous architect Rastrelli, destroyed by German shells

by one thought—not to leave standing a single stone of the priceless treasures created or accumulated throughout the centuries by the Russian people; treasures known and admired the world over.

The Museum Palaces of Peterhof, Pushkin, Pavlovsk and Gatchina, in the Leningrad area, bear new witness to this unbridled destructive fury of the barbarian invaders. In these unique Palaces were embodied the creative genius of not only the greatest Russian architects, sculptors, painters and masters of the applied arts, but of eminent West-Europeans as well.

The Grand Palace of Peterhof was destroyed in the early days of the German occupation. This we learned from irrefutable documentary evidence, such as photographs found on dead or captured Germans, who not only gloat over their atrocities, but love to photograph them for the edification of friends and relatives. But we only recently discovered that another Peterhof mansion, the Palace of Mon Plaisir, smaller than the Grand Palace, but not inferior to it in artistic value and even surpassing it in historical significance, has likewise ceased to exist.

Mon Plaisir was the favorite residence of Peter the Great, who could not tolerate grand and magnificent halls, and preferred its small, intimate rooms. The palace was begun in 1717 and completed in 1722. It was the work of the French architect Leblond and the Italian Michetti. Its ceilings were painted by the French artist Pillement, and the sculptural decorations were by Pineau, another Frenchman. The work of these and a dozen other gifted men has been reduced to a heap of ruins by the Germans.

The English Palace in Peterhof, another first-rate architectural work, was also destroyed. Built during 1781–89 at the order of Catherine II, it represents in severity and consistency of line, symmetry of proportions, and the harmony of the massive eight-columned portico with the austere expanse of the facade, one of the finest creations of the great Italian architect Giacomo Quarenghi.

Of the Peterhof Grand Palace nothing remains but charred walls on the verge of collapse. Its splendid interior decorations have vanished. This Palace was built in the time of Peter I, also by Leblond, and enlarged during 1747–52 under Elizabeth by her favorite architect, Count Rastrelli. With its magnificent facade and the elegance of its halls, it was a truly royal residence.

Another tragic loss is the famous Samson Fountain, work of the Russian sculptor Kozlovsky, showing Samson rending the lion asunder. The statue was of bronze, thickly covered with gold, and it was doubtless for the gold that the Germans sawed it into sections and shipped it to Germany.

It would be difficult to enumerate the varied trea-

ures of art wholly or partially destroyed in the many buildings and extensive grounds of the Tsarkoye Selo Palace in Pushkin. The Grand Palace—to an even greater extent than the Palace of Peterhof—was the collective work of many architects, sculptors, painters and decorators. Like the latter, it was originally built by Leblond for Peter I, and subsequently enlarged by Rastrelli. Elizabeth, who had spent her childhood with her mother Catherine in Leblond's Palace, was reluctant to have it razed, and ordered Rastrelli to embody the old Palace in the new. The task was achieved; in 1752 Rastrelli completed the architectural masterpiece which the Germans have now so barbarously destroyed. Elizabeth lived in this Palace until death, and it was later chosen by Catherine II for her own residence.

At that period baroque, which had been all-pervading and of which Rastrelli was the brilliant exponent, was being steadily ousted by the classical style for which Catherine, in the 80's, conceived a passion. She could no longer tolerate the old style, but recognizing the magnificence of the external architecture of the Palace, she decided to have one-half of its interior reconstructed in the new manner.

At her invitation Charles Cameron, a Scottish architect, came to St. Petersburg from Italy, where he had been studying the villas of ancient Rome, on which he had published a voluminous work in 1772. Catherine spent days with Cameron discussing details. After drawing up a series of plans he reconstructed Rastrelli's halls, creating a series of rooms of amazing architectural and decorative beauty.

The most striking feature of Cameron's art was the employment of an endless variety of materials in interior decoration. He did not hesitate before combinations which no one before him had dreamed of using: porcelain, transparent and clouded glass with inner linings of colored foil, jasper, ebony, ivory and amber, sculptural arabesques and bas-reliefs—all these and a great deal else he combined with incredible skill, creating new and surprising forms and illusions.

In the decoration of Catherine's retiring room these materials were used in the greatest profusion. Among the most effective details were the slender columns of glass lined with blue foil, arranged in clusters in the corners. The furniture and the bronze work were also designed by Cameron.

All of this has now either been carried away to Germany or smashed into fragments.

Besides reconstructing these rooms, Cameron added to the Palace a unique architectural masterpiece—a pavilion with "agate rooms" and a "cold bath"—and also a splendid Spanish Gallery which was known as the Cameron Gallery.

(Continued on page eight)

Hitler Plays Hamlet

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Where is the Fuehrer's former friskiness? He has forgotten Moscow. He has forgotten his lebensraum. The Munich thug plays the orphan. He tries to bolster up German spirits with curses. The madman curses everything and everybody: the Red Army and the Savoy dynasty, British fliers and sceptics. In 1942 the Fuehrer stated: "This will be the year of final victory." Now he discourses on the frailty of all earthly things. There are no permanent wars. This one too will end sometime.

A few years back Hitler couldn't decide whether he was Alexander or Napoleon. Now he acts the philosopher and quotes Shakespeare. He concluded his New Year's order with the words: "To be or not to be?" The Fritzes are asked to solve the dilemma which tormented the Prince of Denmark. In this war there will be no conquerors or conquered, Hitler tells them, only those who succumbed and those who survived.

Alas, the ill-starred sausage-eaters! As if four-ton bombs and elastic defense were not enough, they must now concern themselves with philosophy. Let us solve the problem for these witless German philistines. Not only do all wars end, but the end of this war is already in sight. The nations will survive it, but Hitler and his accomplices will fall. Nazi Germany will not be.

Trust the Fuehrer, or Else . . .

In the newspaper *Berliner Lokalanzeiger*, General Kabisch adjures the Germans: "Trust the Fuehrer."

He writes: "Trust is the child not of reason, but of feeling. Reason seeks to analyze, to draw conclusions, to make decisions. It rejects trust unless it is based on facts which can be critically analyzed. Trust does not depend on understanding. Whoever does not understand must compel himself to trust."

And so trust under compulsion has been introduced into Germany. If some Germans still preserve any bits of reason, these bits are to be turned over to the authorities, like warm vests and copper saucepans. Attempts to analyze the situation are regarded as a harmful diversion.

If the German army has retreated from Vladikavkaz to Kherson and from Rzhev to Vitebsk, the German "child of feeling" exclaims: "We are winning!"

Yet there are some people in Germany who shirk all kinds of duties. They don't plant potatoes and they don't turn in their door knobs. Nor does the "compulsory trust" obligation apply to them. They are the German industrial barons.

Reichsminister Borman learned recently that the bosses of the big joint stock companies not only analyze, but draw conclusions and make decisions. These distrustful gentlemen draw up secret lists of new boards for old joint stock societies—in anticipation of Hitler's collapse. There are no Nazi Party members on the lists. The largest concerns, such as I. G. Farbenindustrie and Vereinigte Glanstoffwerke, have begun their preparatory camouflage.

Kazakh Girl Named Hero of the Soviet Union

By decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred posthumously on Senior Sergeant Manshuk Mametovka, a Kazakh girl machine gunner, for bravery in action in the offensive which retook Nevel.

In the autumn of 1942 the 22-year-old medical student, daughter of a collective farm cattle-breeder, joined the Red Army as a volunteer. For several months she did clerical work at headquarters. Staff officers advised her to study nursing or to become a telegraph or radio operator. But she chose to be a machine gunner. In her first battle she silenced the fire of a German blockhouse. Her marksmanship was praised by seasoned soldiers. Soon she became the pride of the regiment and was promoted to the rank of senior sergeant.

When Soviet troops pierced the strongly fortified positions of the enemy and pushed ahead toward

Nevel, the Kazakh girl machine gunner was in the front ranks. She found an advantageous position and mowed down the Hitlerites, five times forcing them to fall back. But a fascist mortar gunner found her position and showered it with dozens of bombs. The bomb blasts overturned her gun and a splinter wounded her in the head. The moment was critical for the Soviet troops. Mametovka righted the gun and poured another stream of lead into the fascist ranks, cutting down the first row of the attackers. The enemy fell back.

The German mortars fired another burst and when the smoke cleared away Red Army men saw the body of the heroic girl lying beside the shattered gun. Mametovka was dead, but her courage had insured the successful advance of the unit which took Nevel by storm. One of the central streets of the city has been renamed for the valiant Kazakh girl.

CAMERAMEN AT THE FRONT

By Yuri Karavkin

One hundred and twenty Soviet cameramen are making for posterity a visual record of the Soviet-German war. One hundred and four have been decorated by their Government for courage and devotion to duty. One of the veterans is 24-year-old Leonid Kotlyarenko. He filmed his first battle sequence on June 27, 1941, in Bessarabia.

It was the fifth day of the war. Under a scorching sun Red Army men were convoying the first Nazi



Senior Lieutenant G. J. Lipshitz, now fighting on the Southern Front with units commanded by Guards Major General Utvenko, was formerly assistant to the noted Ukrainian film director, Alexander Dovzhenko

prisoners along a dusty road. The lens caught the expression on the faces of the Soviet soldiers, who had had their baptism of fire only the day before. They look angry and puzzled. They seem to be asking: "Who are these two-legged creatures, wild beasts with man-shaped bodies?"

The camera records made by Kotlyarenko in two and a half years of war cover over 30,000 feet of film. He photographed the first German air raid on Kishinev, the city without a single big factory. The bombs crashed down on wooden cottages, orchards, old churches. That day Kotlyarenko himself was a target for 10 German planes as he was driving along a country road in a car. Nine of them roared overhead, and each one dropped a bomb. The tenth machine-gunned the car, while the cameraman protected his head with his case of films.

His camera has made a gripping record of Nazi behavior to Soviet civilians. It was at Rostov in November, 1941, that he and his comrades made the first screen documents unmasking the face of the German army. They showed the outraged Soviet people the stiff bodies of their fellow countrymen, the laments for the dead. They became the chroniclers of the people's grief. . . .

But not only of grief—of battle, courage and final joy. Early in the war Kotlyarenko took part in an armored train raid on German positions in the Donbas. Already these shots of Red Army men preparing for action, of telegraph poles flashing by, of troops being detrained in the steppe while a raging blizzard sweeps the ground and howls through the deserted mining settlements, have the quality of a traditional epic.

In the winter of 1941, Kotlyarenko met the famous sniper Mikhail Surkov, one of the first Soviet sharpshooters to cut the 100th notch on their rifles. The cameraman went out hunting with Surkov, and made a thrilling record of the sniper in action. Many months later he filmed Surkov again. By that time Surkov had killed his 700th German, and bore the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

One of Kotlyarenko's best jobs was the filming of Soviet offensive operations southeast of Novorossisk. The sequences showing the break-through of the powerful "Blue Line" are particularly fine. He was with the vanguard of the troops who liberated the Taman Peninsula.

Scientists and Metalworkers

The scientific research institutes of the Soviet Union are giving great assistance to the metal industries of the liberated regions. A group from the Ukrainian Institute of Metals is helping the Donbas plants. Workers from the Eastern Institute of Fuel Utilization are helping to set up urban central heating plants for the use of hard fuels.

THE POLISH QUESTION

The following editorial appeared in Number Five of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

Ever since the arena of hostilities between the Red Army and the German-fascist forces began to shift rapidly toward Polish territory, the Polish question has been a permanent feature of discussion in the columns of the world press. However, it can by no means be said that the past experience is always taken into account. Yet this experience is extremely instructive.

Upon what should the policy of the restored Poland of 1918 have been based—if it had been a wise policy answering the interests of the Polish people? Obviously, in the first place upon a sober assessment of Poland's geographical position and concrete historical situation. Poland lay between Germany and Russia. As to the historical situation, its characteristic feature at the time of the restoration of the Polish state was that in place of Tsarist Russia there had arisen a new Soviet State which from its very inception extended the hand of friendship and support to the Polish people.

It is common knowledge that it was precisely the triumph of the Soviet Revolution in Russia, which proclaimed the right of nations to self-determination and abolished all treaties relating to the partition of old Poland, that created the essential condition for the resurrection of Poland's political independence. As a result, post-Versailles Poland found herself in a historical situation which differed fundamentally from that of the old Polish state, hemmed in as it was between predatory Prussia and Tsarist Russia.

Poland's western neighbor was marauding German imperialism which, immediately after its defeat, began to make active preparations for revenge, its aggressive lusts turning first and foremost toward the Slav East. But on the other hand, Poland's neighbor in the east was now the Soviet Union, which had completely renounced the acquisitive tendencies of Tsarist Russia and put into practice the boldest ideals of national and social liberty, and which made peaceful cooperation with other nations and opposition to international violence and imperialist aggression the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

It would seem that given this historical situation, the choice of a line of foreign policy should have presented no difficulty to the Polish state. Only a policy of close cooperation and friendship with the Soviet Union could guarantee Poland the necessary stability and strength to defend herself against the German *Drang nach Osten*. But, as we know, the ruling circles of post-Versailles Poland chose a different course. First, they fell like jackals upon the young Soviet Republic and took advantage of its tem-

porary weakness—the result of years of war and intervention—to filch the ancient lands of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian peoples. Next, the Polish rulers turned their country into a hotbed of conspiracy and intrigue against the Soviet Union. Blinded by their hostility to the Soviet Republic, they sacrificed Poland's sovereignty and put an end to her independence long before the Polish state collapsed. Poland's rulers first placed their services at the disposal of the reactionary circles of the victorious powers and became a tool of their machinations against the Soviet Union, but the moment Hitler came to power they associated themselves with his predatory plans, calculating that when fascist Germany fell upon the Soviet Union a share of the booty would go to them.

This purblind and obtuse enmity toward the Soviet Union was not only supreme folly on the part of the Polish ruling circles, but also a heinous crime against the Polish people and the Polish state. Unfortunately for the country and the people in the arena of official Polish politics, there was no force capable of opposing or counteracting this suicidal policy. All factions of the Polish ruling clique, from frank reactionaries down to those who sported the label of "Polish Socialists," helped to spread in the country the virus of chauvinism and the opium of the imperialist plan for "a Poland from sea to sea." This anti-Soviet foreign policy was intimately bound up with the domination of pro-fascist tendencies and reactionary forces in the home policy, and the inhuman oppression of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian peasants, forming part of the general system of tyranny and oppression which characterized the political system of prewar Poland.

The rulers of Poland, the Pilsudskiites and competing reactionary groups, did not see what was going on under their noses. They failed to notice that the temporary weakness of the Soviet country had long become a thing of the past and that the Soviet Union had grown into a mighty power which possessed effective means for promoting its vital interests. They failed to notice that their adventurist anti-democratic policy was undermining the internal forces of the Polish state and at the same time increasing the danger from without. Having spurned all attempts emanating from Moscow to organize resistance against aggression, Poland had nowhere to turn for effective assistance when Hitler's hordes fell upon her.

At the same time hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian and Byelorussian peasants called up for the Polish army, oppressed as they were by the double yoke—national and social—of the Polish magnates, landowners and gendarmes, saw no sense in sacrificing their lives for the preservation of a feudal reac-

tionary Polish state. The defenders of Warsaw and Westerplatt paid with their blood for the incompetence of the Polish rulers and for their betrayal of national interests in favor of greedy appointees of the feudal border landowners.

The collapse of the Polish state in the early part of September, 1939, was by no means fortuitous. It was the inevitable corollary to the whole policy of the Polish ruling circles during the two decades of post-Versailles Poland.

Of course Poland was not the only victim of Hitler's aggression. We know, for example, that Hitler seized Czechoslovakia with even greater ease than Poland. But no right-minded person will say that Czechoslovakia's cruel fate was predetermined by the policy of that country. In Czechoslovakia there were not any feudal border landowners forming the backbone of blackest reaction. In Czechoslovakia, furthermore, the democratic strata which determined her policy in general realized the menace to their country on the part of Germany. The Czechs were anxious to play their part in the struggle against the German *Drang nach Osten*; and it was primarily because of the Chamberlain-Daladier Munich betrayal that the Germans were able to lay their hands upon Czechoslovakia.

The lessons of Poland's entire history and especially the history of post-Versailles Poland lead to one incontrovertible conclusion, namely, that only a policy of friendship toward and cooperation with the Soviet Union can insure Poland's independent political existence in her proper place in the family of democratic nations. It is only in friendship with the Soviet Union and in readiness together with the Soviet Union to resist every attempt to resuscitate the German *Drang nach Osten* that there lies the guarantee of resurrection and prosperity and an independent Polish state, and the conversion of Poland from a hotbed of war-fraught conspiracy and intrigue into one of the bastions of stable and prolonged peace and general security in Europe.

It is not surprising that this solution of the Polish problem is resisted by all the reactionary forces grouped around and supporting the Polish government in exile. These "rulers" who have learned nothing from the lessons of history are playing a double game: while professing to be opponents of Hitler they are actually his accomplices and are planning a revival of the pro-fascist Poland of the Pilsudskis and Becks. These bankrupt politicians, divorced from the country and the people, continue to weave their anti-Soviet intrigues, calculating thereby to gain political prestige in the eyes of the reactionary groups within the Allied countries and thus to secure their support. It means nothing to these self-seeking adventurers that Poland's reversion to the disastrous policy of the Pilsudskis and Becks, as well as the revival of the policy and activities of the Sosnkowskis

and Kukiels, would be monstrous and evil in the first place to Poland and the Polish people, not to mention Europe in general.

Certain "well-wishers" of Poland express "misgivings" as to whether recognition of the necessity of a friendly attitude toward the Soviet Union would not be tantamount to intervention in the internal affairs of the Polish state. Certain circles in democratic countries express "fears" that a friendly policy toward the Soviet Union would amount to renunciation of Polish independence and sovereignty. It is hard to say what predominates in such and similar arguments, plain misunderstanding or covert design. After all, these same circles consider it a self-understood necessity that the Latin-American countries should pursue a friendly policy toward the United States and the West-European democratic countries toward Great Britain. Evidently these circles still cannot rid themselves of the habit of applying two criteria—one toward their own country and another toward the Soviet Union.

It is time to realize that the Soviet Union has become one of the major factors of world policy in the interests of democratic countries. Its strength has been still further enhanced in its duel with a powerful adversary. In smashing Hitler's hordes, the Red Army is bringing liberation to the Polish people.

"The Polish problem" now stands as follows: the Polish people must find in their own midst new constructive forces capable of drawing lessons and pursuing a line which will be free from fatal errors of the past, and capable of correctly understanding and honestly serving the true interests of the Polish people and a free, independent and democratic Poland. Only in this way can a resurrected and renewed independent and strong Poland, leaning on the friendship of the Soviet Union and other democratic countries, emerge onto the highroad of political and national progress.

Students Help to Rebuild Stalingrad

The youngest builders of Stalingrad are the students of 300 factory apprenticeship and vocational schools who came to Stalingrad from Moscow, Saratov, Yaroslavl, Gorky, Tbilisi and other Soviet cities a little more than a year ago. Their first practical work was the construction of schools and living quarters for themselves.

Then, together with their study of mathematics, physics and the building trades, they began work on the reconstruction of Stalingrad, restoring one of the shops of the power station, the Kuibyshev meat-packing plant and many other enterprises. There is no building project in Stalingrad in which they have not had some part.

German Program of Starvation in Europe

By K. Hofman

As a result of her defeats on the Soviet-German front, Germany has lost important economic bases in the East, and the Hitlerites are drafting measures to insure supplies for the German army and the rear.

These measures give the lie to the statements of German propaganda which claim that territorial losses in the USSR have not affected Germany's economic position, and the allegations that Germany relied upon her own resources for her food supplies.

Some idea of this new program for starvation in Europe is provided in a speech made the other day by representative of the German Ministry of Agriculture and Provisioning Ricke, who said that the Germans intend to compel all occupied countries to organize a so-called "battle for the harvest" on the German model.

A section of fascist farm managers who fled from the Ukraine and are unemployed have now been transferred by the Hitlerites to France and Italy. Their job is to stimulate agricultural production in those countries and explore additional possibilities for exporting food products to Germany.

Ricke said that certain reserves which could still be utilized by the Germans are available not only in France and Italy, but in other countries of western and southeastern Europe. The new program elaborated by the Hitlerites provides for a thorough revision

of the bases and norms for feeding the population of Europe. Ricke said that until the war is over Europe's food foundation must be confined to plants. As for the livestock, he said, it is impossible to provide fodder for all the cattle, sheep, goats and hogs of Europe. Therefore part of the livestock must be slaughtered so as to make it possible to provide fodder in adequate quantities for the remainder. In practice this means the Germans intend to start wholesale slaughter of hogs, cows and sheep in occupied countries.

In justification of the planned further plundering of Europe, Ricke claimed that Germany has the right to mobilize the surpluses of all European countries since she is employing in German industries millions of European workers who have to be fed.

In other words, the Nazi robbers shift to the occupied countries not only the burden of maintaining the German army, but also the burden of feeding the slaves drafted for hard labor for Hitler's war machine.

The new provisioning program of the German fascists threatens the life of the population of Europe. To the enormous toll of life taken by war are now added fresh victims of starvation. Doomed Hitlerite Germany is trying to prolong her existence by sucking out the last vital juice of the European countries under her heel.

Collective Farmers Pledge Victory Harvest

The Soviet collective farm system is the foundation of that strength of our countryside which has been vividly demonstrated during the greatest test of the Patriotic War. Without the collective farms our countryside would have been unable to cope with the requirements of the front.

During the First World War the Russian countryside was incapable of satisfying the needs of the army and the defense industry. Now, during the third year of the Patriotic War of the Soviet people against Hitlerite Germany, our countryside presents an entirely different picture. Our agriculture continues to develop. Letters to Stalin from collective farmers and agricultural workers in various republics and regions, published in our press, speak eloquently of this.

The fight for an abundant harvest in 1944 is an extremely important task of the collective farms. Spring field work has already begun in the southern

part of the country. Extensive preparations are going on in all regions, territories and republics of the Soviet Union. The increased efficiency and organization of the collective farms is a guarantee that our collective farms and State farms are capable of overcoming the difficulties of the present period.

On the threshold of the spring of 1944 the Soviet farmers promised Marshal Stalin to make every effort to obtain an abundant harvest, in order to increase aid to the front. The Red Army's victories have inspired the collective farmers to new labor exploits. The desire to bring nearer the final victory determines the behavior of the patriots of our villages, both when they contribute their savings toward the construction of tanks and planes, and when they prepare tractors and seed for the spring.

The collective farmers will do everything to grow and gather this year an abundant war harvest—the harvest of victory.

Maxim Gorky and the English Classics

The popularity of English classical authors is steadily increasing in the USSR. This appreciation is, of course, traditional with us. Gorky's English admirers are no doubt aware in what profound esteem he held the literature of their country. Shakespeare, Dickens, Byron and Walter Scott were among his favorite authors.

"Shakespeare, Balzac and Tolstoy are to me three monuments erected by mankind in its own honor," he wrote in one of his articles. In another he said: "Let us not forget that while Balzac's *Poor Relations*, Gogol's *Dead Souls* and Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* are essentially novels of life and manners, they contain profound and unfading instruction such as even the finest university cannot give, and which the ordinary man could not acquire with such precision and accuracy in 50 long years of life and labor."

For Gorky, books were a source of the knowledge which he could not derive directly from life. Books, he said, enabled him to penetrate into the secret places of the human heart. He called them the most wonderful miracles produced by man in his path toward happiness and power.

Speaking of his childhood, he said: "At that time I was already reading translations of foreign novels, and among the books which fell into my hands were works by such splendid authors as Dickens and Balzac, also the historical novels of Ainsworth, Bulwer-Lytton and Dumas. These books introduced me to men of strong will and well-marked character."

These enthusiastic comments on English authors are the more significant when we remember that, to Gorky, a nation's literature was the mirror of its soul. For this reason he was particularly charmed by the ballad of Robin Hood, to the Russian translation of which he wrote a foreword. In his memoirs he relates how he accidentally came across a bulky volume of which the first part was missing. From this he copied the "enthralled verses" of the *Comedy of the Merry Archer George Green and Robin Hood*, written in the 16th Century by one of Shakespeare's predecessors, Robert Green. "I was delighted to learn from it," said Gorky, "and conceived an even deeper love for literature, which from time immemorial has been man's faithful friend and assistant in his hard life."

GERMAN DESTRUCTION

(Continued from page two)

Another distinguished apartment in the Grand Palace was the Amber Room, a gift to Peter I from Frederick I, originally installed in the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. In 1755 it was transferred to Tsarskoye Selo Palace, where Rastrelli built a special hall for it.

Cameron had no luck at the hands of the Nazis. His Pavlovsky Palace, another unusually beautiful creation, was also wrecked by them. True, this Palace, built for the heir-apparent Paul, for whom the town was named, was not finished by Cameron. The interior was completed after Paul's accession to the throne by the Italian Vicemzio Brenna, favorite architect of the new Tsar. Brenna gave the halls of the Palace a warlike character, both the throne room and the "war room" being in this style.

The Palace of Gatchina was entirely the production of Brenna. It, too, was built for Paul, and also bore a distinctly martial character. This splendid building suffered as severely at the hands of the Germans as did other treasures of art which fell under their temporary sway. All minor architectural fea-

tures—pavilions, bridges, fountains, monuments and mausoleums—which were scattered throughout the Palace parks and constituted a charming accompaniment to the basic architectural theme, have been completely wrecked or have vanished. In their perfection these tiny gems were not inferior to the larger structures.

The barbarians also destroyed the parks, which formed an integral whole with the Palaces. With the destruction of these green backgrounds against which the Palaces had been conceived, the spirit of these regal architectural ensembles perished.

Trenév's New Historical Play

Kutuzov, a historical play by Konstantin Trenév, has been accepted for production by the Moscow Maly Theater. Another play by this author, *Lyubov Yarovaya*, has been in the repertoire of the Maly for 16 years. Trenév's new work deals with the military genius of General Kutuzov, who correctly evaluated the role of the guerrilla movement and the people's struggle against Napoleon, and coordinated guerrilla and army operations.

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Soviet Armenia and the Patriotic War

By G. Alekyan

the critical days of the Patriotic War, when the invaders had reached the foothills of the Caucasus, the freedom-loving sons of Armenia, with Georgian and Azerbaijanian brothers, sent the

following message to the Commander-in-Chief:

We pledge ourselves, dear Comrade Stalin, to give our last drop of blood in the battle against the Ger-



orchards of Armenia, from which collective farmers derive about 35 per cent of their income, cover a total of 20,000 hectares. Here Nikita Yakopyan examines choice specimens of apples

mans. We will fight as long as our hearts beat, fired with fervent love for our country. We swear to stand like a rock—and never to surrender our native land to the enemy!

The Soviet patriots made good their pledge.

The people of Armenia have covered themselves with glory on the war fronts. Inspired by the legendary deeds of their great ancestors—Vartan Mamikonyan, Gevorg Marzpetuni, David Bek and other heroes and generals—they have furnished supreme examples of valor and heroism. Hundreds of Armenian fighters have been decorated with Soviet orders and medals. The names of Heroes of the Soviet Union Nemson Stepanyan, Sergei Oganyan, Captain of the Guards Aram Mirzoyan, fliers Patrick Gazazyn, Raphael Gabrielyan, Captain Grachiya Oganesyanyan and many others, are cherished by their countrymen. Among Soviet generals there are some 30 Armenians. Over 20 Armenian privates, officers and generals have been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The 89th Armenian Rifle Division especially distin-

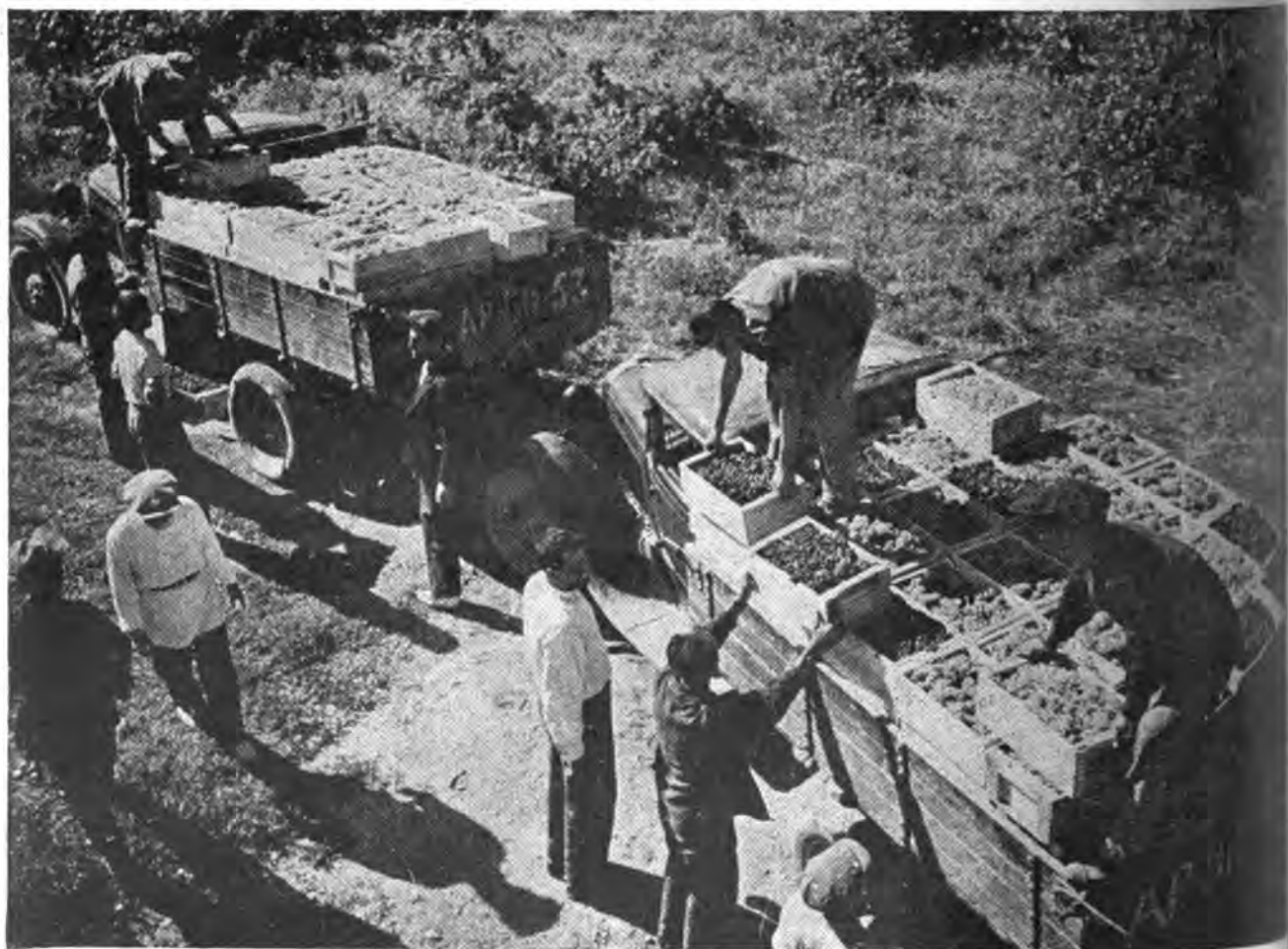
guished itself and by order of Marshal Stalin has been named the Taman Division.

* * *

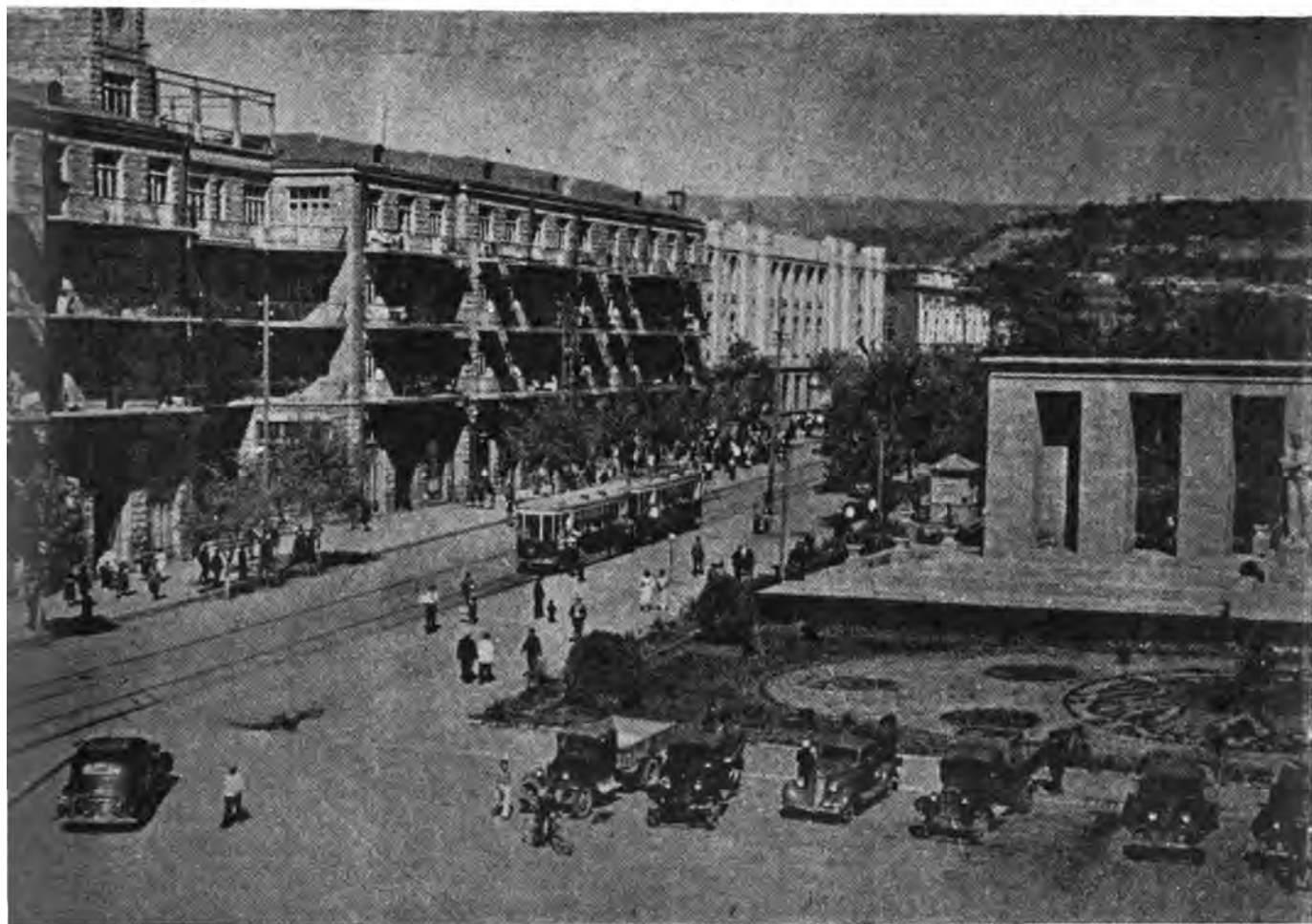
During the grimmest days of the German attack on the Caucasus, the enemy assembled strong forces near an iron and concrete railway bridge over a mountain stream. Under heavy fire our sappers succeeded in mining the bridge, but were unable to blow it up. Black-haired, gay young Mesrop Kazaryan volunteered to do the job. That night he took some explosives and reached the bridge undetected. As he was about to light the fuse, he heard the footsteps of a German sentry. Hastily deciding to shorten the fuse and blow up the bridge at once, he paused only long enough to write a message to his comrades:

Goodbye, my sunny country, my parents and my comrades. I shall never see you again. In shortening the fuse, I shorten my life. But I do it with no regret, dear friends. Victory will be ours! Remember your comrade Mesrop Kazaryan.

The young mountaineer placed the note in



Loading grapes for shipment



EREVAN, CAPITAL OF SOVIET ARMENIA—A view of Shaumyan street, named for the revolutionary hero of the Armenian people, whose monument appears at the right

er-flask and flung it into the river. A terrific explosion shattered the stillness and the arches of the bridge dropped into the stream. The memory of Shaumyan will be held sacred by our people—a valiant hero in whose great heart love for his native land was stronger than the fear of death.

* * *

Armenian girls have also proved themselves heroes in the Patriotic War, voluntarily joining the ranks of the Red Army. Among the defenders of Stalingrad was 18-year-old Asya Keketdjian, who rescued scores of wounded men from the battlefield. This young girl also took part in the battle for Orel, has received the military Order of the Red Star, the Order of Valor Medal and the Medal "For the Defense of Stalingrad." Susannah Zakaryan, Lusya Shagin-Lisa Gasparyan and other Armenian girls have distinguished themselves in front-line action.

In the rear, too, the people of Armenia are work-

ing tirelessly. Marshal Stalin's slogan—"Everything for the front! Everything for victory!"—has become the national watchword. Some 2,000 youth brigades have been formed, and thousands of boys and girls have replaced fathers and brothers now fighting. In the Erevan canning factory 119 youth brigades consistently overfulfilled the production plan; in the city of Kirovakan the workers of the Myasnikyan kombinat overfulfilled the plan and completed schedules ahead of time.

Splendid examples of labor economy and improved technique have been recorded in the automobile repair shops and the Dzerzhinsky plant in Erevan, and by the miners of the Zangezur and Allaverdi mines, which deliver thousands of tons of copper for the front. The young railroad workers of Armenia are also breaking records, and over 200 Armenian boys and girls are aiding in the restoration of Stalingrad.

(Continued on page ten)

AGRICULTURAL WEALTH OF ARMENIA

Armenian collective farm vineyards cover a total of 27,000 hectares. Last year the yield was as high as 100 to 150 centners per hectare



Esparto grass, one of the principal fodders, yields two crops yearly. Izolar Muradyan, a collective farm girl, is helping with the harvest



Armenia is the third largest cotton-growing Republic in the USSR, with an area of about 20,000 hectares planted to American and Egyptian varieties



the mountain pastures
provide excellent grazing
for collective farm flocks



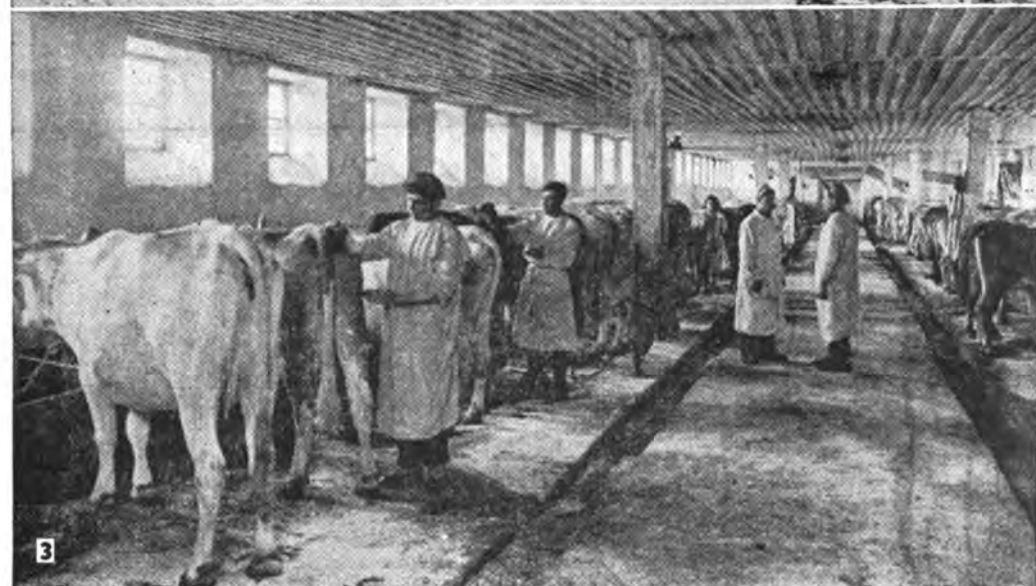
1

the number of horses,
cows and other livestock
owned by the collective
farms is steadily increas-
ing

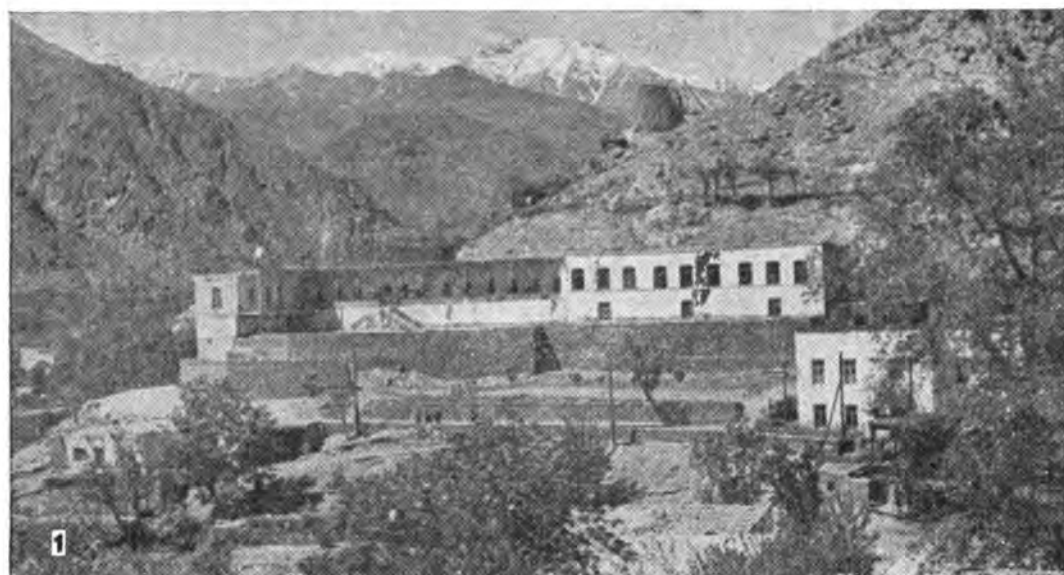


2

the stables are modern, well-
equipped and equipped



3



Collective farm buildings in Megri village. Armenia has 1,021 collective farms, embracing 98 per cent of the farm households. Their prosperity is constantly growing—in 1943 there were over 31 farms whose incomes exceeded one million rubles each, as compared with 21 such farms in 1940



A collective farm cottage. More than 15,000 houses of this type were built in 1939 alone, and the number has now been greatly increased



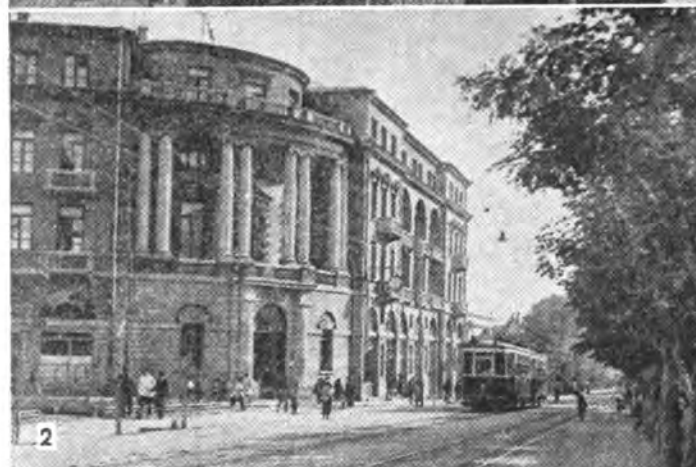
Armenian agriculture is highly mechanized. Fifteen hundred tractors till the fields. Animal and mineral fertilizers have raised the average yield of wheat, rye and other cereals by as much as 50 to 75 per cent



(1) Silk cocoons. Armenia is a leading silk-growing region of the USSR; (2) Armenian wheat

(3) A herdsman proudly displays a pair of pedigree goats; (4) In the Veterinary College

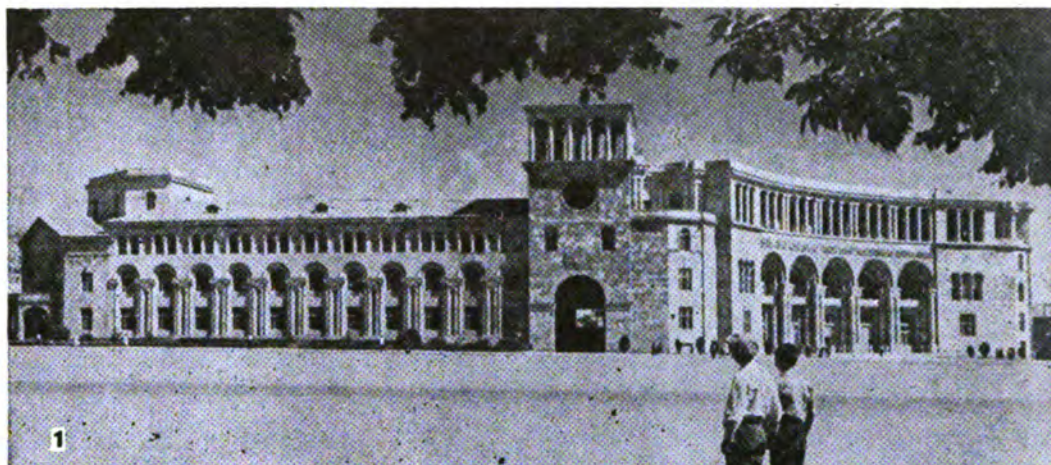
Erevan—under the Shadow of Mount Ararat—a Distinctively Beautiful and Modern Capital



(1) View of Armenia's capital from the Kanakir Hills—in the background are the peaks of Greater and Smaller Ararat; (2) The Intourist Hotel on Abovyan Square; (3) Lenin Square

(4) Nalbadyan street, with the foundations of a new apartment building in the foreground; (5) The Book House, headquarters of the publishing activities of Armenia; (6) A new cinema theater

The seat of the Armenian government. Here the Supreme Soviet of the Republic holds its sessions



The State Bank of Armenia



Home of the People's Commissariat of Education, which has under its direction 1,125 primary and secondary schools and four of the higher educational institutes



Science and Art Flourish in Armenian Republic

In 23 years of Soviet power, Armenia has been transformed from a poverty-stricken, devastated land to an advanced state with a highly-developed industry, mechanized agriculture, a rich literature and a brilliant art.

The Republic has 10 higher educational institutions, 1,125 primary and secondary schools, 114 libraries with a total of two and one-half million volumes, and numerous scientific and special research institutes, headed by the Armenian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, located in Erevan.

Even in the difficult days of war, students crowd the schools and universities. The Polytechnic Institute has more applicants than places. In 1943 the College of Agriculture enrolled 330 new students.



(Left, above) Professor Tumanyan, Doctor of Agricultural Sciences; (center) Khachatur Miramanyan, Professor of Soil Study at the Armenian Agricultural College; (lower) E. Kazaryan, Director of the Botanical Gardens of the Armenian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR

SOVIET ARMENIA

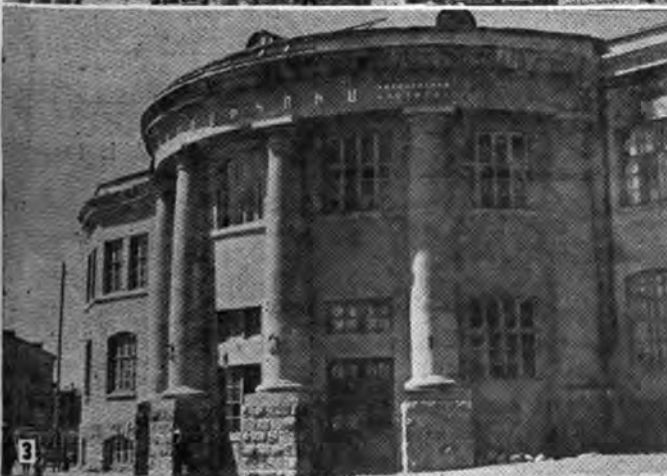
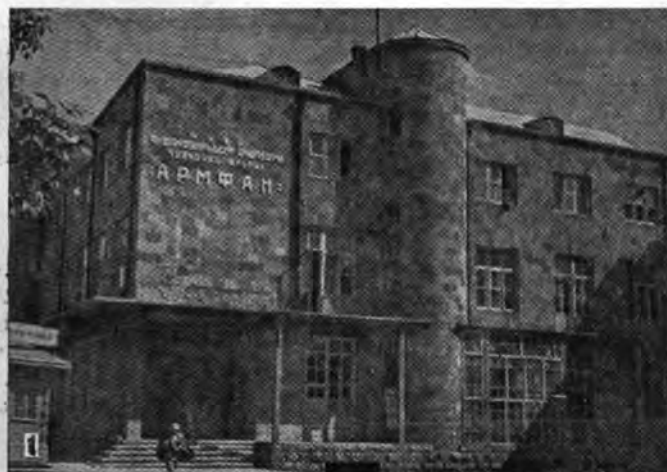
(Continued from page three)

Nor do the collective farms lag behind the industrial workers.

The Armenians have received the thanks of Marshal Stalin for their success in raising funds for tanks, planes and guns for the Red Army. On the initiative of the youth organizations of Kirovakan Region, two million rubles were raised in 10 days to build a squadron of fighter planes which bears the name "Young Guards of Krasnodon." Altogether eight million rubles have been collected for aid to the Red Army, and gifts to the value of 700,000 rubles have been sent to the guerrillas of the Crimea and other regions. The families of Red Army men also share in the warm solicitude of the Armenian people.

These are happy days for the Soviet people. The Red Army is advancing, freeing our cities and villages and our dear ones from the enemy. Inspired by the Orders of Marshal Stalin and the brilliant victories of Soviet troops, the people of Armenia are giving all their strength to the final crushing of the Hitlerites, the clearing of our sacred Soviet soil from the invaders.

Educational and Scientific Institutes of Soviet Armenia



(1) The Armenian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR; (2) Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Manuscripts and Books on the East and on Armenia; (3) A Medical College

(4) The Polytechnic Institute; (5) Students on the grounds of the Erevan State University discuss a recent examination; (6) One of the buildings of the Armenian Observatory

Notes from Front and Rear

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR has established military orders and medals bearing the name of the famous Russian Admirals Ushakov and Nakhimov. Admiral Ushakov, a contemporary of Suvorov, was one of the founders of the famous Black Sea School of Naval Warfare, from which came the noted Russian Admirals Lazarev, Kornilov, Nakhimov and Istomin. The name of Ushakov is linked with the remarkable victories in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Admiral Nakhimov is remembered for the brilliant Russian naval victory at Sinop and the epic siege of Sevastopol in 1854-55. The entire history of the Russian Navy is inseparably bound with the names of these great Admirals.

★

Captain Maria Moslova, a 25-year-old Red Army Surgeon who is at present working in a front-line hospital, has performed over 500 operations on wounded soldiers and sailors. She has operated in dugouts and unheated rooms, in blindages in the battle zone, under heavy artillery fire and enemy air raids.

★

During the war intensive diamond mining has developed in an area of the Western Urals. The Urals' "Diamond Land" was discovered in 1829, when the first Russian diamond was found in this area. During an entire century only 239 diamonds were mined. After the Revolution the "Diamond Land" was carefully explored and its industrial exploitation begun. The demand for diamonds, which are widely used in the mining, rubber, silk and weaving industries, and above all in tank and aviation construction, has increased greatly during the war. As a result, new mining districts with small electric power stations, industrial buildings, dwellings and clubs have sprung up in the diamond area of the Urals, where formerly there was only virgin forest, and even the huts of trappers were few and far between.

★

Young Soviet workers and students have become patrons of many children's homes. They sew clothing, manufacture shoes, repair buildings, make toys for the little ones, equip workshops and arrange concerts and lectures.

★

Nikolai Gavrilov, well-known Russian sculptor, has worked for many months at the front and in guerrilla detachments behind the German lines, doing sculptural figures of soldiers, airmen and guerrillas. He recently completed a bust of Army General Konstantin K. Rokossovsky.

Over 350 Hitlerites have been killed by Hero of the Soviet Union Ivan Gorelikov, a Siberian sniper. Five Red Army men trained by Gorelikov have accounted for 1,263 of the enemy. The Siberian has become a recognized authority on sniper warfare, and his articles on the subject appear frequently in front-line newspapers.

★

The Admiralty Building in Leningrad, one of the masterpieces of world architecture, damaged in the shelling of the city by the Germans and Finns, is being restored. Built after a design drawn up personally by Peter I, the building was later, 1734-38, finished in stone by the Russian architect Korobov, who added the famous 236-foot spire, which became part of the St. Petersburg landscape. At the beginning of the 19th Century the celebrated Russian architect Zakharov, using the general plan of the old Admiralty as a basis, created a majestic structure in classical style. Fascist shells destroyed the famous frieze on the main tower, knocked down three statues, damaged the Pallas Athene statue in the entrance hall, smashed the beautiful paintings and damaged the bas-reliefs on the facade.

★

A message to Stalin from the workers of the heat and power Station in Chelyabinsk, Western Siberia, reports the installation of the fifth most powerful turbine generator in the Soviet Union. The turbine, which has a capacity of 100,000 kilowatts, is in operation. On December 26 the sixth pump was installed, capable of feeding turbines generating 160,000 kilowatts. The time taken for the assembly and installation of the turbines was from a half to a third of that considered normal before the war.

★

At the outbreak of war, when Soviet industry was faced with the task of smelting new grades of steel in the shortest possible time, steel-smelter Alexander Chalkov, of the Kuznetsk iron and steel works, was the first to smelt high quality armor steel by the "speed" process. For this achievement he was awarded a Stalin Prize in 1943. Chalkov, a Siberian, used his prize money to produce tommy guns for a Siberian Guards Division—and for an entire year worked overtime to smelt steel for the guns. To receive a tommy gun inscribed: "To the Siberians, from smelter Chalkov," is regarded as a high honor in the Siberian Division, and in return the Divisional Command has conferred upon Chalkov the title of Honorary Guardsman.

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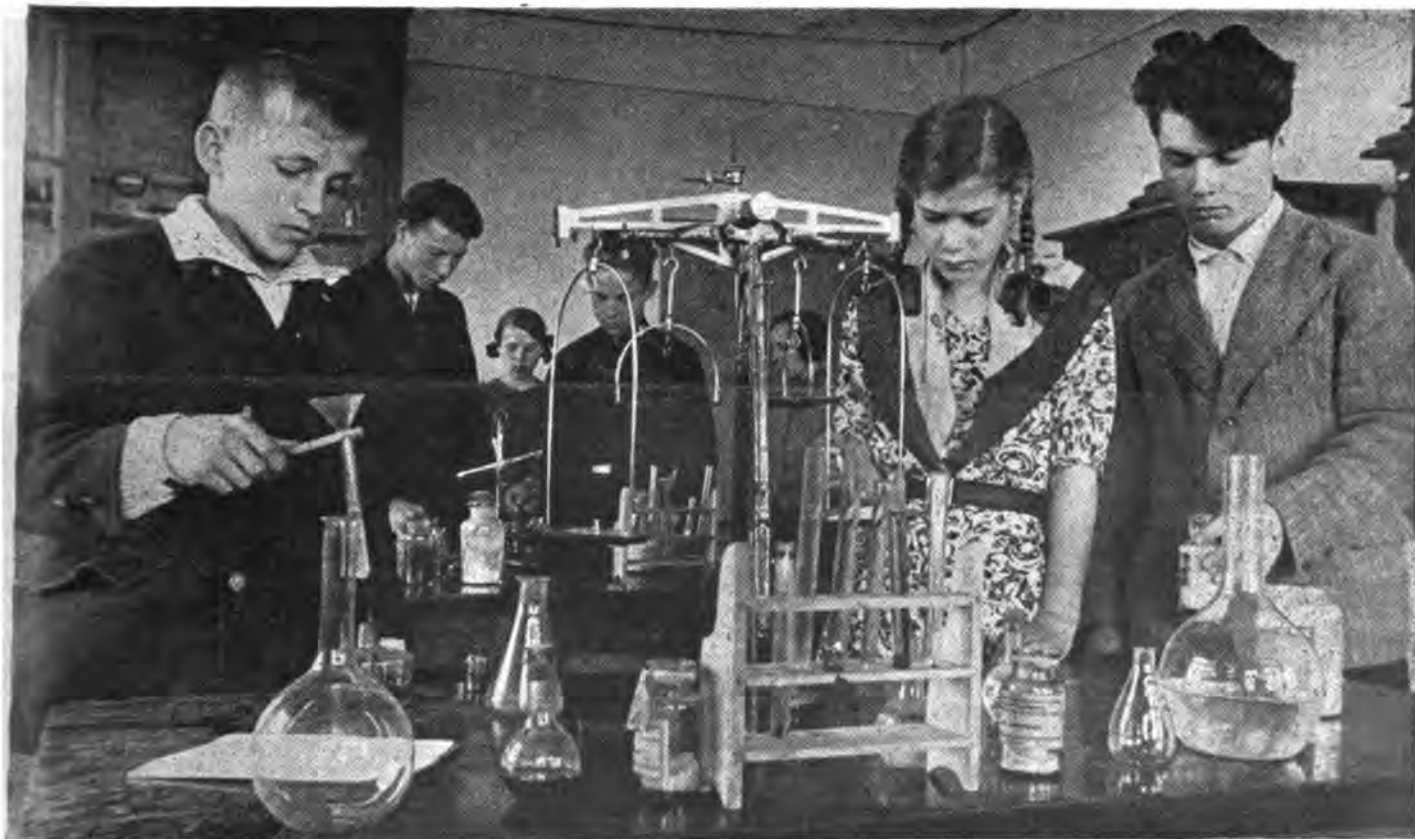
A Song Sacred to the Soviet People

By D. Zaslavsky

On March 15, 1944, the new Soviet anthem was legally adopted. Every new Soviet day is now ushered in by it. At midnight its solemn strains are heard from the high towers of the Kremlin and over all the boundless expanses of the Soviet land. Henceforth the new anthem will be an indispensable feature of every solemn Soviet occasion. Soviet citizens listen to it standing, with bared heads.

The words of the hymn spring from the fundamental changes which have taken place in our country as a result of the triumph of the Soviet system, and from the great events of the Patriotic War against

the German invaders. They were inspired by ardent love of the Soviet motherland and burning hatred of the enemy who raised his hand against the independence of the Soviet State. He who wants to understand the soul of a Soviet citizen—let him study the words of this anthem. Every phrase in it is a statement of principle, and all the phrases together constitute the Soviet credo. It is a symbol of faith in poetic form. It expresses the most cherished and sacred sentiments of the Soviet citizen. Future generations will be educated in its thoughts and sentiments. The anthem is already being taught to children of pre-school age.



A laboratory in the Secondary School of the Novaya Zhizn collective farm, Sukharevo Rural Soviet

There are plenty of people outside the Soviet Union to whom the Soviet citizen, the Soviet State and Soviet morals are an enigma. They may find the key to the enigma in the words of the Soviet anthem—that is, if they want to find it. Often enough the failure to understand the Soviet citizen springs not from the fact that he is hard to understand, but from unwillingness to understand him.

The underlying idea of the new Soviet anthem, its dominant note, so to speak, is consciousness of the might of the Soviet Union. It is called "mighty" in the anthem, which also speaks of it as "a reliable bulwark" of "the friendship, happiness and glory of its peoples." Above it waves "the Soviet banner, the banner of the people," which "leads from victory to victory." These words of the anthem correspond to that consciousness of strength which lives in the soul of every Soviet patriot. He knows that his is a great and powerful country. Hence the pride with which the anthem is infused. The Soviet citizen is proud. He does not conceal it. Meekness is alien to him. He is animated by a lofty consciousness of his state and national dignity. This sentiment is inculcated by the whole history of the Soviet State, which has demonstrated its strength to the world.

However, the Soviet citizen's consciousness of his strength and pride in the might of his State is the antithesis of national conceit and arrogance. Such arrogance and boastful pride in an alleged superiority over other nations was most strikingly expressed in the German national anthem *Deutschland Über Alles, Über Alles in Der Welt*. That bumptious assertion that the German is superior to everybody else in the world, that to Germany belongs the leading place on the terrestrial globe, that Germany looks down upon Britain, America, Asia and all other nations of the earth, created a fruitful soil for German fascism, for the predatory imperialist urge to conquer Europe and the entire world.

The Soviet people do not consider themselves weaker than any other people. But neither do they claim superiority over others. They simply make affirmation of the place which belongs to them by right.

The Soviet anthem is infused with a genuine spirit of democracy. Its hero is the people, only the people and nothing but the people. The Soviet citizen is proud of the fact that his mighty State, which is capable of administering a rebuff to the enemy, is a single union of "free Republics." This is one of the most important passages in the anthem, and it is worth pondering over and understanding. The Republics of the Soviet Union are free and independent. And that is a matter of honor and pride to every Soviet citizen. He is master of his country. In it he speaks his own language. In it he is building up his national culture. And today under the new law

he has a right to his own national army and his own national foreign policy.

The Republics are free. "By the will of the peoples" they have freely joined together to form the Soviet Union. This is not a chance vagary of the people's will, nor the fruit of a transitory policy. The union is "unbreakable." Any Soviet Republic is free to leave the Union. But not one Soviet Republic will do so. In the present war the Soviet people have proved that, in the severest test to which a nation can ever be put.

The years of 1941 and 1942 are fresh in the memories of all. The enemy penetrated deep into the Soviet Union. He occupied some of its Republics completely, others partially, and threatened to occupy still others. To many, the German army seemed invincible. The fascists were jubilant. It was a drastic ordeal for the Soviet Union. But never for a moment did it flinch. The most sensitive political seismograph would not have registered any perceptible perturbances in the Republics. The will of the peoples to preserve their union and unity remained firm as a rock, against which the fascist armies were shattered.

The unity of the multi-national Soviet Union withstood the most powerful shocks. This came as a surprise to many observers of Soviet life. They will find the answer to their doubts in the inspired words of the anthem regarding the friendship of the peoples, the happiness of the peoples and the glory of the peoples. These are not merely poetic words. They are heroic facts, facts recorded in the annals of the World War. They have found expression in the countless feats of valor of Soviet soldiers—Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Georgians, Armenians, Uzbeks, Jews and many others—who shed their blood fighting in defense of their common motherland.

The Soviet State proclaims and practices the equality of all peoples. That is the source of its strength. It is the source of the strength of the Red Army. But equality in the Soviet Union was never vulgarly interpreted as "equalitarianism," as a leveling up or down of all concepts and precedents. The new anthem, in full conformity with historical facts, declares that the single and mighty Soviet Union was welded by great Russia. The Russian nation holds the place of honor in the Soviet Union not only because of its size, but also because of the part it played in creating the Soviet State, because of its rich experience and its culture. All the nations of the Soviet Union are conscious of this. They comprise a single family. But as in every harmonious and industrious family, younger members look up with respect to the older, and this respect is not enjoined by law or imposed by force, but is naturally rooted in the whole system of Soviet society.

There are people who consider themselves learned, but who to this day muddle the concepts of "Russian" and "Soviet." Some even profess to find an antagonism between the two. The new Soviet anthem makes the relation between great Russia and the Soviet Union perfectly clear.

The Russians have not subjected other nations of the Soviet land to their sway. The Russian enjoys no greater rights than the citizen of any other Soviet Republic. But neither has the Russian nation merged its identity with the other nations. It retains its individuality. It is proud of its name and its glorious past. It marches in the forefront of other Soviet nations because it has a richer historical experience; and other nations which only recently acquired their own independent political existence and have not yet amassed sufficient cultural experience have something to learn from it.

From the ranks of the Russian people emerged the heroic Russian working class, and the Russian working class produced the great leaders of the people, Lenin and Stalin. Lenin, the anthem says, illumined the path to freedom for the Soviet people. Stalin taught them to be loyal to the motherland and reared them to labor and prowess. It is with deep reverence and affection that the Soviet people call Lenin and Stalin their fathers, teachers and leaders.

The Red Army is an expression of the might of the Soviet State. It is part and parcel of the Soviet people. It grew up in the fighting for the motherland. It marches into battle under the banner of the Soviets, the banner of the people, for the glory of its

land. It marches from victory to victory. So sings the anthem, and so it is in fact.

The Soviet anthem abounds in ideas and sentiments. It is the anthem of a great people, a generous and kind-hearted people, an honest and industrious people. The Soviet people have no difficulty in discerning who are their sincere friends and who their enemies. Their friendship may be relied upon. They are true to their friends and scrupulous in the discharge of their obligations and undertakings. The Soviet people are aware of their strength, but they are not conceited about it. They are not fond of vain boasting. They leave that to the fascists and their imitators.

The Soviet anthem was written during the great war to defend the country. That determined its style and tone. It is profoundly patriotic. But it is not intended for war only. It is not for nothing that it says, "in battle we determine the fate of future generations." The anthem is meant for coming generations, too. To promote the friendship, happiness and glory of the nations of the Soviet Union will remain the cardinal task for them also. It is for this that the single and mighty Soviet Union, created by the will of the peoples, exists.

A lasting and stable peace is an essential condition for the prosperity of the Soviet State. Built on the firm foundation of friendship among nations, it is the most effective guarantee of amicable international relations, and a bulwark of the equality, liberty and independence of nations.

THE BATTLE FOR DUBNO

In defending Dubno the Germans had an extremely advantageous natural line in the Ikva River, which protects the city on three sides. Three months ago they began to build fortifications around the town, driving thousands of war prisoners and civilians to work on them. Anti-tank ditches were dug along the eastern banks of the river. A tangled web of minefields was laid, trenches dug on the outskirts of the city and many stone buildings transformed into pillboxes.

When the Red Army, as a result of a daring outflanking movement, liberated Rovno and Lutsk and rushed to the southwest, a stubborn struggle began at the approaches to Dubno. Advancing Soviet troops faced the immediate task of clearing the Germans from the huge Rovno-Lutsk-Dubno triangle, where the enemy still had quite strong centers of resistance. Infantry and mobile groups successfully achieved this task and forged ahead to Dubno, where fierce fighting ensued.

The terrain at the approaches to the city from the

southwest is very uneven and almost entirely covered by forest. Soviet tanks had only one way to get through—along the Mlynov-Dubno highway, which the Germans kept under heavy fire from the heights, repeatedly launching counter-attacks. Breaking the enemy's resistance by a tank attack, Red Army units drove through into the western outskirts of Dubno. A group of Ferdinand tanks and self-propelling guns repeatedly tried to dislodge the Soviet infantry, but the men clung tenaciously to their positions. Hundreds of Germans were killed in these counter-attacks.

Meanwhile another mobile group turned Dubno from the east and stormed a railway station several kilometers from the city. After forcing the Ikva River in three places the Soviet vanguard and later the main forces invested Dubno in a semi-circle of steel and broke into the city from the west, east and north. The Germans counter-attacked with infantry and tanks, but were unable to gain even a partial success. Red Army officers and men fought in the streets with exceptional skill, splitting up and annihilating isolated enemy groups.

WOMEN IN THE RED ARMY

By Colonel Valentina Grizodubova, Hero of the Soviet Union

Throughout the many centuries of our long history, Russia has known many courageous women fighters. In legends of the Mongol-Tartar invasions, we find mention of women who donned armor and defended their native towns.

"An amazing country," exclaimed Napoleon indignantly. "Here even the women fight!" Among the great heroes of 1812 were Vasilisa, leader of the Smolensk guerrillas, and the girl Nadezhda Durova, who fought at Borodino.

Soviet women fought too during the Civil War. A soldier who took part in the North Caucasus battles said at the time: "You would think Krasnodar had been defended solely by women, there were so many of them among the wounded." Women fought under the banners of the famous Civil War leaders Chapayev and Shchors and with Budenny's First Cavalry Army.

Women in the Present War

But never has the patriotism of our women reached such a peak as during the present war. They have volunteered for service at the front as nurses, medical orderlies, scouts, machine gunners, snipers, pilots. They work in the signal services.

One of these women fighters, Nina Onilova, aptly expressed their sentiments: "I took part in the defense of Odessa with my machine gun, and now I'm helping to defend Sevastopol. Naturally I look very small, weak and thin, but my hands never tremble. When you're defending your native land and your family—I haven't a family, therefore the whole people are my family—then you become brave." Nina Onilova killed over 500 Germans before she herself was killed. She is mourned by the whole country.

Hero of the Soviet Union Maria Baida became famous as a scout during the fighting in the Crimea. The woman sniper Ludmila Pavlichenko killed 309 Germans at Odessa and Sevastopol. The women of Leningrad and Stalingrad took part in the defense of their cities. The girl snipers Natalia Kovshova and Maria Polivanova died defending Moscow. Both were posthumously awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union. On one sector of the First Baltic Front there are 75 girl snipers. In three months they have wiped out 2,500 Germans.

One of them, a girl named Nina Galanina, who only recently graduated from a snipers' school, once came up against an experienced German sniper on her sector. The duel between them lasted a fortnight, and

the girl won. She killed the German sniper, and brought back to her unit his rifle, notebook and Iron Cross.

The girls are steadily becoming more competent in the use of their weapons. They do not lag behind the men in this respect. Yevdokia Nosal, a pilot, was a school teacher before the war. During the war she became an instructor at a flying club, and later selected what would seem the most unwomanly of all professions—piloting a night bomber. She has made 354 operational night flights and dropped 49,957 kilograms of bombs. She, too, now bears the title Hero of the Soviet Union.



A girl from one of the Don Cossack units of the Red Army

The women soldiers of the Red Army have earned the affection and respect of their men comrades. Not only the army but the whole people admire their gallantry. Thousands of women patriots have been awarded military decorations. Fifteen bear the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

CENTENNIAL OF NIKOLAI RIMSKI-KORSAKOV

By Matvei Grinyev

On March 18 the people of the Soviet Union marked the centennial of the birth of Rimski-Korsakov, the great Russian composer whose classic works have enriched the musical literature of Russia and the world. In addition Rimski-Korsakov was an incomparable teacher, responsible for the skill of several generations of Russian musicians; an important public figure, and a thinker concerned with the problems of esthetics and the philosophy of art. But first and foremost, Rimski-Korsakov is known as a composer. His 15 operas, the symphonic masterpieces *Antar*, *Scheherazade*, *Spanish Caprice* and *Dubynushka*, and his cantatas and songs have justly rendered his name immortal.

To obtain a true idea of Rimski-Korsakov's position in the realm of music, however, one must acquaint one's self with his varied activities. Thus we find that his teaching, his work with the choir of St. Petersburg, his concerts in Paris and Brussels, his orchestration of *The Stone Guest* (the opera left unorchestrated at the death of Dargomyzhsky); his collaboration with Glazunov in the completion of the score for *Prince Igor*, by Borodin, whose sudden death also prevented him from finishing the opera; his editing of the musical heritage left by Mussorgsky; and his textbooks on harmony and orchestration—all these aspects of Rimski-Korsakov's "life in art" were guided by a single motive, a single idea: to serve his country and his people—an idea inspired by his lofty patriotism.

It is perhaps for this reason that the significance of the great composer is today so evident to the people of the Soviet Union, now in the throes of a Patriotic War. It is perhaps for this reason that in listening to his works today the people seem to hear his music afresh, and are more than ever grateful to the composer and patriot whose memory they honor. He may truly be said to have been the architect of Russian musical culture.

Rimski-Korsakov left a tremendous heritage. His textbooks on harmony and orchestration are used in Soviet conservatories, and composers still study his scores. Many of Prokofiev's brilliant works could not have been written were there no *Scheherazade*, *Spanish Caprice*, the *March from Coq d'Or* or *Antar*. Shostakovich, like Glazunov, Lyadov and Stravinsky before him, felt the guiding influence of Rimski-Korsakov, and this is also true of the famous Soviet composers Shaporin and Khachaturyan. There is no concert hall in the USSR which does not include in its repertory a number of his works. Among the most popular of his operas are *A Night in May* (based on

the story by Gogol), *Sadko*, *Tale of Tsar Zoltan* (Pushkin), and *The Snow Maiden*.

At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, Rimski-Korsakov exercised an enormous influence on world music. He was the father of contemporary music. To be convinced of the truth of this, one has only to recall the works of Debussy and Ravel.

A connoisseur who jealously cherished Russian folk songs, lyrics, stories and legends, Rimski-Korsakov drew generously upon these sources for the themes and characters of his operas. All his works, from his *First Symphony* to *Coq d'Or*, are steeped in the spirit of Russian folklore and graced with the intonations and melody of Russian song. To borrow from the people and return to them their own art enriched, developed and finished—such was the creative principle of Rimski-Korsakov.

Whoever wishes to know the Russians, to understand their strivings and ideals, cannot ignore the works of this master. They are as saturated with the spirit of the people as is the music of another great Russian composer, Tchaikovsky, and the literary creations of Turgenev, Tolstoy and Gorky and the poets Pushkin and Lermontov.

Pushkin had a remarkable talent for intimately familiarizing himself with the beauty and poetry of various peoples and including them in his own creations. This special gift of the great Russian poet was shared by the gifted Russian composers Glinka, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky and Rimski-Korsakov. Rimski-Korsakov's *Spanish Caprice* is a veritable poem of Spain. His Eastern themes, as exemplified by *Scheherazade* and *Antar*, reveal not only the exotic colors of the East, but also the character and spirit of the Orient. These "oriental" creations were destined to play an important role in the artistic life of the Eastern Republics of the Soviet Union. The works of Rimski-Korsakov, as well as his entire school, influenced all the composers of the Transcaucasus and Central Asia. The Georgian composer Piaishvili was his pupil; the Armenian composer Komitas deeply assimilated his teachings. Today in distant Kirghizia, where before the Revolution concerts were unknown, one may attend the Kirghizian national operas and ballets. The popular opera *As-Churek* owes much to the heritage of Rimski-Korsakov. In Tajikistan and Turkmenia, the composers who have created a national music were influenced by his work.

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Documentary Film on Polish Armed Forces in USSR

By Lev Nikulin

"The First Polish Corps now stands face to face with its deadly enemy and will let him feel the temper of its hatred. Its guns will thunder a message to our brothers at home that we are coming, that the day of liberation is near!"

With these words of General Berling, Commander of the First Polish Corps, the first section of the documentary film *Fighting Poland* begins. "Our ties of friendship with our great ally, the USSR and its heroic Red Army, have been sealed in blood,"—thus General Berling concludes his introduction.

The trumpets sound and on the roads of war we see the marching columns behind the Polish banner of white and red. The men wear the uniforms of the Polish infantry. The voice of the commentator reminds us that four years after Hitler's predatory onslaught on Poland, the Tadeusz Kosciuszko Division is moving westward on the Soviet front. The words "Westward we go!" are indeed the leitmotif of this remarkable film, and may frequently be heard on the front-line road known as the "Warsaw Highway." They may be heard in burned-out villages and on the banks of a river "which is not yet the Vistula, but from whence the road to the Vistula is the shortest."

Director Alexander Ford, cameraman Stanislaw Wol and Wladislaw Forberg have created a stirring documentary of the Polish Armed Forces on the Soviet-German front, fighting side by side with the Red Army.

A number of documentary films have described the great battles on the Soviet-German front. The effect of the two documentary films on the fighting Poles is created by their fiery patriotism, their truthfulness and their appeal to those still under the yoke of the Nazi gangsters.

An excellent commentary in inspired verse by M. Konopnitskaya, Polish songs and Polish music, now lyrical, now martial, render every scene extraordinarily impressive. The first section shows the Tadeusz Kosciuszko Division at the front. The ruins of Soviet villages remind the Polish fighting men of the ruins of their own towns and villages, the Russian orphans remind them of their own Polish orphans. The fraternal sympathy of Slav for Slav is aroused. Polish soldiers and sappers help Russian peasants to rebuild their cottages. "It isn't wooden cottages we're building, but a grand structure of friendship and mutual understanding among the Slav peoples," says a Polish patriot through the commentator.

Westward they go! In the columns one may find the seasoned Polish officer Yacewicz, actor Przebylski, a father and son, an orphaned youngster, Jruczek, and others adopted by the soldiers.

The first battle is about to be fought. General Berling and his aide are solemn and preoccupied. For four years they have been waiting to come to grips with the deadly enemy of Poland and of all liberty-loving nations. The artillery supporting the Polish forces on the Soviet-German front speaks out on October 12, 1943. The hurricane of fire unleashed by Soviet artillerymen and Guards trench-mortar crews clears the way for attacking Polish soldiers. They surge forward at full height. Through smoke and flame move the Polish infantry, the heavy tanks with the Polish eagle on their turrets.

The German front in this sector is smashed. Three lines of trenches are in the hands of the Polish fighters. A short while ago there were only Germans here; their corpses now lie about the trenches and in no man's land.

The second section of the film shows Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, presenting the high Order of Lenin to General Berling and his aide, Colonel Sokorski. The ranks of the Polish forces are swelling. We see the Second Division, its artillery and tank brigades, preparing for the front. Tapping the War Academy graduates on the shoulder with his sword, General Berling confers the rank of officer upon them.

"You will serve with the commission of coronet for the glory of your country," he says.

"For the glory of our country, Sir," the young officers reply.

There is a parade and we see the mighty tanks and long-range artillery. The Polish forces are superbly armed. The most up-to-date fighting machines are at their command. In the ceremonial march the men display excellent bearing. Finally Chaplain Kubsz of the Polish Armed Forces blesses them and their weapons.

A splendid episode is shown in the second installment: Poles forcibly mobilized by the Nazis desert and join the armed forces of their Polish liberators. One may well imagine the sentiments of these people who have been dreaming of this hour so long, as they tear off the hated German uniforms and take up arms against their Nazi tormentors. The new soldiers give their oaths, and during the first battle avenge themselves for the torments they have suffered from the Nazis.

Another episode portrays the girls of the Polish forces. They serve in the liaison branch as tommy gunners and as stretcher-bearers. Here the commentator speaks of the girls' hands on the typewriter

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Ice Speed-Skating Popular Soviet Sport

Ice speed-skating is one of the oldest sports in Russia, dating back as far as 1864, when the first ice speed-skating club was founded in St. Petersburg. The fame of Russian speed-skaters, which began in 1889 with Nikolai Sedov, a skater of phenomenal physical strength and beautiful style, has been maintained until the present day.

After the October Revolution the sport developed with astonishing rapidity. The first official tournament for the title of the young Soviet Republic, held in 1921, was won by Nikita Naidyonov, a speed-skater of the older generation. Each year the country-wide speed-skating festivals reflected the achievements of Soviet physical culture and sports. The number of first-class men and women speed-skaters steadily increased. In contrast with pre-revolutionary days, in which the number of contestants never exceeded 20, the All-Union tournaments of the Soviet regime have included hundreds of athletes carefully selected in preliminary regional and city skating matches. In 1935 Russian youth wrested the laurels from the older generation of speed-skaters. As many as 18 All-Union records were established in one season, includ-

ing a world record in the 5,000-meter event for women.

In 1936, Soviet national records were shattered 50 times, and three world records for women as well. The results of the 1937 All-Union tournament were still higher. Records which had stood for 45 years were broken. Soviet speed-skating successes ranked second to Norway in the roster of national world records.

A year before the war, Konstanin Kudryavtsev, crack ice speed sprinter, set a new Soviet record of 42 seconds in the 500-meter race, only .2 seconds slower than the phenomenal world record of G. Engnestangen of Norway.

All-Union championship tournaments were not held during the war years of 1941-42, Russian ice speed skaters limiting their activities to exhibition performances. But in February, 1943 the All-Union competitions were resumed, with Ivan Annikanov again the champion. Valentina Kuznetsova, a well-known Gorky athlete, won the woman's championship of the USSR.



Group figure-skating in a Moscow stadium

Rostov Deaf-Mute Theater on Tour

By A. Morozov

Actors of the Soviet deaf and dumb theater are appearing with great success in the liberated southern regions of the USSR. The public has received them with an enthusiasm exceeding all their expectations. They have broken the invisible barriers that divided them from the world. They are valued entertainers of their fellow Soviet citizens.

The theater originated in Rostov, where before the war a group had been formed at a deaf-mutes' club to teach the members to master the methods of making contact with the outside world, i.e., lip-reading and the deaf and dumb finger alphabet. These methods were demonstrated from the stage, and quite by accident it was discovered that some of the group had distinct dramatic ability.

They were given theatrical training. The theater was housed in a large basement. The deaf-mute performers, as well as their audiences, were fond of pompous plays with tense, clearly-defined action. Such highly dramatic plays are most readily conveyed through the medium of gesture and pantomime.

Then the Germans approached the city. They bombed it morning and evening, day and night, and the people had to get accustomed to living in an atmosphere of constant danger. Still, one had to live, work, rest and even indulge in some recreation. A new kind of audience began to visit the basement theater of the deaf-mutes—Red Army men who dropped in

for a bit of diversion between battles, women carrying little children. More, the theater gained an additional reputation as a first-class air-raid shelter. Of course, the little ones didn't always behave properly—they generally cried or laughed in the wrong places. But no one paid any attention, since the action on the stage continued to develop steadily, like a silent film.

Then the theater was evacuated, and began to put on entertainments for military units and workers' clubs. The deaf-mutes acted so expressively that often the audience was under the illusion that the actors were speaking. If anyone made a noise, you would hear people whisper: "Please don't talk. We can't hear."

The deaf-mute theater returned to Rostov with the victorious Red Army. But its stay in its native city was short; it followed the advancing army. Some of the actors were killed. They were replaced by new forces—Red Army men who had lost their sense of hearing in battle.

The success of a performance of the deaf-mute theater depends largely on the choice of a play—and it is not always easy to find a suitable play. When at first you watch a performance, it seems to you for a few moments that something is missing. But this feeling soon disappears. The art of the deaf-mute actors speaks to you as eloquently as any tongue.

RIMSKI-KORSAKOV

(Continued from page five)

This blending of all that is best in Russian musical culture—and first and foremost the works of Rimski-Korsakov—with the national "local" folklore of peoples who for the first time have acquired a progressive musical art, is evident in the flourishing musical culture of the Soviet peoples of Central Asia. Rimski-Korsakov is at once their teacher and guide. He lives on in his works, his pupils and his followers.

The celebration of the centennial of his birth during these grim days of war is not merely a debt of honor paid a great artist of the past, but a stirring festival of living, imperishable music—a festival of the multi-national Soviet culture.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

(Continued from page six)

keys, of gentle hands which bandage the wounded, of determined women's hands unleashing Tommy-gun fire against the enemy.

A children's home organized by the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR with the aid of the Soviet Government and of Polish circles in England and the United States is one of the peaceful scenes in the second installment.

The two sections of *Fighting Poland* will no doubt cause great pleasure to the Slavs of all countries and to all honest people the world over. These documentary films show that Poland is alive and fighting and will live free and independent, in friendly accord with the Soviet peoples.

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REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMISSION

FOR ASCERTAINING AND INVESTIGATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SHOOTING OF POLISH OFFICER PRISONERS BY THE GERMAN-FASCIST INVADERS IN THE KATYN FOREST

The Special Commission for Ascertaining and Investigating the Circumstances of the Shooting of Polish Officer Prisoners by the German-fascist Invaders in the Katyn Forest (near Smolensk) was set up on the decision of the Extraordinary State Committee for Ascertaining and Investigating Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders and Their Associates.

The Commission consists of: member of the Extraordinary State Committee Academician BURDENKO (Chairman of the Commission); member of the Extraordinary State Committee Academician ALEXEI TOLSTOY; member of the Extraordinary State Committee the Metropolitan NIKOLAI; President of the All-Slav Committee, Lieutenant General GUNDOROV; the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Union of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, KOLESNIKOV; People's Commissar of Education of the Russian SFSR Academician POTEKIN; the Chief of the Central Medical Administration of the Red Army, Colonel General SMIRNOV; the Chairman of the Smolensk Regional Executive Committee, MELNIKOV. To accomplish the task assigned to it the Commission invited the following medico-legal experts to take part in its work: Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR, Director of Scientific Research in the Institute of Forensic Medicine PROZOROVSKY; the Head of the Faculty of Forensic Medicine at the Second Moscow Medical Institute, Doctor of Medicine SMOLYANINOV; Senior Staff Scientists of the State Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Medicine under the People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR SEMENOVSKY and Assistant Professor SHVAIKOVA; Chief Pathologist of the Front, Major of Medical Service, Professor VOROPAYEV.

* * *

The Special Commission had at its disposal extensive material presented by the member of the Extraordinary State Committee Academician Burdenko, his collaborators, and the medico-legal experts who arrived in Smolensk on September 26, 1943, immediately upon its liberation, and carried out preliminary study and investigation of the circumstances of all the crimes perpetrated by the Germans.

The Special Commission verified and ascertained on the spot that 15 kilometers from Smolensk, along the Vitebsk highway, in the section of the Katyn Forest named Kozy Gory, 200 meters to the southwest of the highway in the direction of the Dnieper, there are graves in which Polish war prisoners shot by the German occupationists were buried.

On the order of the Special Commission, and in the presence of all its members and of the medico-legal experts, the graves were excavated. A large number of bodies clad in Polish military uniform were found in the graves. The total number of bodies, as calculated by the medico-legal experts, is 11,000. The medico-legal experts made detailed examinations of

the exhumed bodies and of documents and material evidence discovered on the bodies and in the graves.

Simultaneously with the excavation of the graves and examination of the bodies, the Special Commission examined numerous witnesses among local residents, whose testimony establishes with precision the time and circumstances of the crimes committed by the German occupationists.

The testimony of witnesses reveals the following.

The Katyn Forest

The Katyn Forest had for long been the favorite resort of Smolensk people, where they used to rest on holidays. The population of the neighborhood grazed cattle and gathered fuel in the Katyn Forest. Access to the Katyn Forest was not banned or restricted in any way. This situation prevailed in the Katyn Forest up to the outbreak of war. Even in the summer of 1941 there was a Young Pioneers' Camp of the Industrial Insurance Board in this forest, and it was not liquidated until July, 1941.

An entirely different regime was instituted in the Katyn Forest after the capture of Smolensk by the Germans. The forest was heavily patrolled. Notices appeared in many places warning that persons entering without special passes would be shot on the spot.

The part of the Katyn Forest named Kozy Gory was guarded particularly strictly, as was the area on the bank of the Dnieper, where 700 meters from the graves of the Polish war prisoners there was a country house—the rest home of the Smolensk Administration of the Peoples' Commissariat of Internal Affairs. When the Germans arrived this country house was taken over by a German institution named "Headquarters of the 537th Engineering Battalion."

Polish War Prisoners in Smolensk Area

The Special Commission established that, before the capture of Smolensk by the Germans, Polish war prisoners, officers and men, worked in the western district of the Region, building and repairing roads. These war prisoners were quartered in three special camps named: Camp No. 1 O.N., Camp No. 2 O.N. and Camp No. 3 O.N. These camps were located 25–45 kilometers west of Smolensk.

The testimony of witnesses and documentary evidence establish that after the outbreak of hostilities, in view of the situation that arose, the camps could not be evacuated in time and all the Polish war prisoners, as well as some members of the guard and staffs of the camps, fell prisoner to the Germans.

The former Chief of Camp No. 1 O.N., Major of State Security Vetoshnikov, interrogated by the Special Commission, testified: "I was waiting for the order on the removal of the camp, but communication with Smolensk was cut. Then I myself with several staff members went to Smolensk to clarify the situation. In Smolensk I found a tense situation. I applied to the chief of traffic of the Smolensk section of the Western Railway, Ivanov, asking him to provide the camp with railway cars for evacuation of the Polish war prisoners. But Ivanov answered that I could not count on receiving cars. I also tried to get in touch with Moscow to obtain permission to set out on foot, but I failed. By this time Smolensk was already cut off from the camp by the Germans, and I do not know what happened to the Polish war prisoners and guards who remained in the camp."

Engineer Ivanov, who in July, 1941 was acting Chief of Traffic of the Smolensk Section of the Western Railway, testified before the Special Commission: "The Administration of Polish War Prisoners' Camps applied to my office for cars for evacuation of the Poles, but we had none to spare. Besides, we could not send cars to the Gussino line, where the majority of the Polish war prisoners were, since that line was already under fire. Therefore, we could not comply with the request of the Camps Administration. Thus the Polish war prisoners remained in the Smolensk Region."

The presence of the Polish war prisoners in the camps in the Smolensk Region is confirmed by the testimony of numerous witnesses who saw these Poles near Smolensk in the early months of the occupation up to September, 1941 inclusive.

Witness Maria Alexandrovna Sashneva, elementary school teacher in the village of Zenkovo, told the Special Commission that in August, 1941 she gave shelter in her house in Zenkovo to a Polish war prisoner who had escaped from camp.

"The Pole wore Polish military uniform, which I recognized at once, as during 1940 and 1941 I used to see groups of Polish war prisoners working on the road under guard. . . . I took an interest in the Pole because it turned out that, before being called up, he had been an elementary school teacher in Poland. He told me that he had completed normal school in Poland and then studied at some military school and was a junior lieutenant of the reserve. At the outbreak of war between Poland and Germany he was called up and served in Brest-Litovsk, where he was taken prisoner by Red Army units. . . . He spent over a year in the camp near Smolensk.

"When the Germans arrived they seized the Polish camp and instituted a strict regime in it. The Germans did not regard the Poles as human beings. They oppressed and outraged them in every way. On some occasions Poles were shot without any reason at all. He decided to escape. Speaking of himself, he said that his wife, too, was a teacher and that he had two brothers and two sisters. . . ."

On leaving next day the Pole gave his name, which Sashneva put down in a book. In this book, *Practical Studies in Natural History*, by Yagodovsky, which Sashneva handed to the Special Commission, there is a note on the last page: "Juzeph and Sofia Loek. House 25, Ogorodnaya St., town Zamostye." In the list published by the Germans, under No. 3796 Lieutenant Juzeph Loek is put down as having been shot at Kozy Gory in the Katyn Forest in the spring of 1940. Thus, from the German report, it would appear that Juzeph Loek had been shot one year before the witness Sashneva saw him.

The witness Danilenkov, a farmer of the Krasnaya Zarya collective farm of the Katyn Rural Soviet, stated: "In August and September, 1941, when the Germans arrived, I used to meet Poles working on the roads in groups of 15 to 20."

Similar statements were made by the following witnesses: Soldatenkov, former headman of the village of Borok; Kolachev, a Smolensk doctor; Ogloblin, a priest; Sergeyev, track foreman; Smiryagin, engineer; Moskovskaya, resident of Smolensk; Alexeyev, chairman of a collective farm in the village of Borok; Kutseyev, waterworks technician; Gorodetsky, a priest; Bazekina, a bookkeeper; Vetrova, a teacher; Savvateyev, station master at the Gnezdovo station; and others.

Round-Ups of Polish War Prisoners

The presence of Polish war prisoners in the autumn of 1941 in Smolensk districts is also confirmed by the fact that the Germans made numerous round-ups of those war prisoners who had escaped from the camps.

Witness Kartoshkin, a carpenter, testified: "In the autumn of 1941 the Germans not only scoured the forests for Polish war prisoners, but also used police to make night searches in the villages."

Zakharov, former headman of the village of Novye Bateki, testified that in the autumn of 1941 the Germans intensively "combed" the villages and forests in search of Polish war prisoners. Witness Danilenkov, a farmer of the Krasnaya Zarya collective farm, testified: "Special round-ups were held in our place to catch Polish war prisoners who had escaped. Some searches took place in my house two or three times. After one such search I asked the headman, Konstantin Sergeyev, whom they were looking for in our village. Sergeyev said that an order had been received from the German Kommandantur according to which searches were to be made in all houses without exception, since Polish war prisoners who had escaped from the camp were hiding in our village. After some time the searches were discontinued."

The witness collective farmer Fatkov testified: "Round-ups and searches for Polish war prisoners took place several times. That was in August and September, 1941. After September, 1941, the round-ups were discontinued and no one saw Polish war prisoners any more."

Shootings of Polish War Prisoners

The above-mentioned "Headquarters of the 537th Engineering Battalion" quartered in the country house at Kozy Gory did not engage in any engineering work. Its activities were a closely guarded secret. What this "headquarters" engaged in, in reality, was revealed by numerous witnesses, including Alexeyeva, Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya, residents of the village of Borok of the Katyn Rural Soviet.

On the order of the German Commandant of the Settlement of Katyn, they were detailed by the headman of the village of Borok, Soldatenkov, to serve the personnel of "headquarters" at the above-mentioned country house. On arrival in Kozy Gory they were told through an interpreter about a number of restrictions:

They were absolutely forbidden to go far from the country house or to go to the forest, to enter rooms without being called and without being escorted by German soldiers, to remain in the grounds of the country house at night. They were allowed to come to work and leave after work only by a definite route and only escorted by soldiers. This warning was given to Alexeyeva, Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya, through an interpreter, personally by the Chief of the German Institution, Oberleutnant Arnes, who for this purpose summoned them one at a time.

As to the personnel of the "headquarters," Alexeyeva testified: "In the Kozy Gory country house there were always about 30 Germans. Their chief was Oberleutnant Arnes, and his aide was Oberleutnant Rekst. Here were also a Lieutenant Hott, Sergeant Major Lumert, N.C.O. in charge of supplies; Rose, his assistant Isikes, Sergeant Major Grenewski, who was in charge of the power station; the photographer, a corporal whose name I do not remember; the interpreter, a Volga German whose name seems to have been Johann, but I called him Ivan; the cook, a German named Gustav; and a number of others whose names and surnames I do not know."

Soon after beginning their work Alexeyeva, Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya began to notice that "something shady" was going on at the country house.

Alexeyeva testified: "The interpreter warned us several times on behalf of Arnes that we were to hold our tongues and not chatter about what we saw and heard at the country house. Besides, I guessed from a number of signs that the Germans were engaged in some shady doings at this country house. . . . At the close of August and during most of September, 1941 several trucks used to come practically every day to the Kozy Gory country house. At first I paid no attention to that, but later I noticed that each time these trucks arrived at the grounds of the country house they stopped for half an hour, and sometimes for a whole hour, somewhere on the country road connecting the country house with the highway. I drew this conclusion because some time after these trucks reached the grounds of the country house the noise they made would cease.

"Simultaneously with the noise stopping, single shots would be heard. The shots followed one another at short but approximately even intervals. Then the shooting would die down and the trucks would drive up right to the country house. German soldiers and N.C.O.'s came out of the trucks. Talking noisily they went to wash in the bathhouse, after which they engaged in drunken orgies. On those days a fire was always kept burning in the bathhouse stove.

"On days when the trucks arrived more soldiers from some German military units used to arrive at the country house. Special beds were put up for them in the soldiers' Casino set up in one of the halls of the country house. On those days many meals were cooked in the kitchen and a double ration of drinks was served with the meals. Shortly before the trucks reached the country house armed soldiers went to the forest, evidently to the spot where the trucks stopped, because in half an hour or an hour they returned in these trucks, together with the soldiers who lived permanently in the country house.

"Probably I would not have watched or noticed how the noise of the trucks coming to the country house used to die down and then rise again were it not for the fact that whenever the trucks arrived we (Konakhovskaya, Mikhailova and myself) were driven to the kitchen if we happened to be in the courtyard near

the house; and they would not let us out of the kitchen if we happened to be in it. There was also the fact that on several occasions I noticed stains of fresh blood on the clothes of two lance corporals. All this made me pay close attention to what was going on at the country house.

"Then I noticed strange intervals in the movement of the trucks and their pauses in the forest. I also noticed that bloodstains appeared on the clothes of the same two men—the lance corporals. One of them was tall and red-headed, the other of medium height and fair. From all this I inferred that the Germans brought people in the truck to the country house and shot them. I even guessed approximately where this took place as, when coming to and leaving the country house, I noticed freshly thrown-up earth in several places near the road. The area of this freshly thrown-up earth increased every day. In the course of time the earth in these spots began to look normal."

In answer to a question put by the Special Commission—what kind of people were shot in the forest near the country house—Alexeyeva replied that they were Polish war prisoners, and in confirmation of her words, stated:

"There were days when no trucks arrived at the country house, but even so soldiers left the house for the forest, whence came frequent single shots. On returning the soldiers always took a bath and then drank.

"Another thing happened. Once I stayed at the country house somewhat later than usual. Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya had already left. Before I finished the work which had kept me there, a soldier suddenly entered and told me I could go. He referred to Rose's order. He also accompanied me to the highway.

"Standing on the highway 150 or 200 meters from where the road branches off to the country house I saw a group of about 30 Polish war prisoners marching along the highway under heavy German escort. I knew them to be Poles because even before the war, and for some time after the Germans came, I used to meet on the highway Polish war prisoners wearing the same uniform with their characteristic four-cornered hats. I halted near the roadside to see where they were being led, and I saw that they turned towards our country house at Kozy Gory.

"Since by that time I had begun to watch closely everything going on at the country house, I became interested. I went back some distance along the highway, hid in bushes near the roadside, and waited. In some 20 or 30 minutes I heard the familiar single shots. Then everything became clear to me and I hurried home.

"I also concluded that evidently the Germans were shooting Poles not only in the daytime when we worked at the country house, but also at night in our

absence. I understood this also from recalling occasions when all the officers and men who lived in the country house, with the exception of the sentries, woke up late, about noon. On several occasions I guessed about the arrival of the Poles in Kozy Gory from the tense atmosphere that descended on the country house. . . . All the officers left the country house and only a few sentries remained in it. The Sergeant Major kept checking up on these sentries over the telephone. . . ."

Mikhailova testified: "In September, 1941, shooting was heard very often in the Kozy Gory Forest. At first I took no notice of the trucks, which were closed at the sides and on top and painted green. They used to drive up to our country house and were accompanied by N.C.O.'s. Then I noticed that the trucks never entered our garage, and also that they were never unloaded. They used to come very often, especially in September, 1941.

"Among the N.C.O.'s who always sat with the drivers I began to notice one tall one with a pale face and red hair. When these trucks drove up to the country house, all the Germans, as if at a command, went to the bathhouse and bathed for a long time, after which they drank heavily in the country house. Once this tall red-headed German got down from the truck, went to the kitchen and asked for water. Then he was drinking the water out of a glass. I noticed blood on the cuff of the right sleeve of his uniform.

Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya witnessed the shooting of two Polish war prisoners who had recently escaped from the Germans and been caught. Mikhailova testified: "Once Konakhovskaya and I were at our usual work in the kitchen when we heard a noise near the country house. On coming out we saw two Polish war prisoners surrounded by German soldiers who were explaining something to Rose. Then Oberleutnant Arnes came over to us and told Rose something. We hid some distance away as we were afraid that Rose would beat us if we were being inquisitive.

"We were discovered, however, and at a signal Rose the mechanic Grenewski drove us into the kitchen and the Poles away from the country house. A few minutes later we heard shots. The German soldiers and N.C.O. Rose, who soon returned, engaged in animated conversation. Wanting to find out what the Germans had done to the dead Poles, Konakhovskaya and I came out again. A German aide, who came out simultaneously with us from the main entrance of the country house, asked Rose something in German, to which the latter answered in German, 'everything is in order.' We understood these words because the Germans often used to repeat their conversation. From all that took place we concluded that these two Poles had been shot."

Similar testimony was given by Konakhovskaya. Frightened by the happenings at the country house, Alexeyeva, Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya decided to quit work there on some convenient pretext.

advantage of the reduction of their "wages" from three marks a month at the beginning of May, 1942, on Mikhailova's suggestion they did report for work. In the evening of the same day they came to fetch them, they were brought to the country house and locked up by way of punishment of Mikhailova for eight days and Alexeyeva and Khovskaya for three days each. After they had served their terms all of them were discharged.

While working at the country house Alexeyeva, Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya had been afraid to talk to each other about what they had observed of the happenings there. But during their arrest, sitting in the cell at night, they shared their knowledge.

At the interrogation on December 24, 1943, Mikhailova testified: "Here for the first time we talked freely about the happenings at the country house. All I knew. It turned out that Konakhovskaya and Alexeyeva also knew these facts but, like myself, been afraid to discuss them. I learned from them that it was Polish war prisoners the Germans used to shoot at Kozy Gory. Alexeyeva said once in the autumn of 1941, when she was going home after work, she saw the Germans driving a large group of Polish war prisoners into Kozy Gory Forest and she heard shooting."

Similar testimony was given by Alexeyeva and Khovskaya. On comparing notes Alexeyeva, Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya arrived at the conclusion that in August and September, 1941, the Germans had engaged in mass shootings of Polish prisoners at the country house in Kozy Gory.

Alexeyeva's testimony is confirmed by the testimony of her father, Mikhail Alexeyev, whom she has known as far back as in the autumn of 1941, during her work at the country house, about her observations of the Germans' activities at the country house. "For a long time she would not tell me anything," Mikhail Alexeyev testified, "only on coming home she commanded that she was afraid to work at the country house and did not know how to get away. When I asked her why she was afraid she said that very often shooting was heard in the forest. Once she told me in secret that in Kozy Gory Forest the Germans were shooting Poles. I listened to my daughter and warned her very strictly that she should not tell anyone else about it, as otherwise the Germans would find out and then our whole family would suffer."

At Kozy Gory Polish war prisoners used to be brought to the country house in small groups of 20 to 30 men escorted by up to seven German soldiers, was also testified by other witnesses interrogated by the Special Commission: Kisselev, peasant of Kozy Gory hamlet; Zertsev, carpenter of Krasny Bor station in the Kozy Gory Forest; Ivanov, former station master at the station in the Katyn Forest area; Savvateyev, station master on duty at the same station; Alexeyev, headman of a collective farm in the village of Borok; Kabanov, priest of Kuprino Church, and others. These witnesses also heard shots in the forest at Kozy Gory.

Of especially great importance in ascertaining what took place at Kozy Gory country house in the autumn of 1941 is the testimony of Professor of Astronomy Bazilevsky, director of the Smolensk Observatory. In the early days of the occupation of Smolensk by the Germans, Professor Bazilevsky was forcibly appointed assistant Burgomaster, while to the post of Burgomaster they appointed the lawyer Menshagin, who subsequently left together with them, a traitor who enjoyed the special confidence of the German command and in particular of the Smolensk Kommandant von Schwetz.

Early in September, 1941, Bazilevsky addressed to Menshagin a request to solicit the Kommandant von Schwetz for the liberation of the teacher Zhiglinsky from War Prisoners' Camp No. 126. In compliance with this request Menshagin approached von Schwetz and then informed Bazilevsky that his request could not be granted since, according to von Schwetz, "instructions had been received from Berlin prescribing that the strictest regime be maintained undeviatingly in regard to war prisoners without any slackening."

"I involuntarily retorted," witness Bazilevsky testified, "'Can anything be stricter than the regime existing in the camp?' Menshagin looked at me in a strange way and bending to my ear, answered in a low voice: 'Yes, there can be! The Russians can at least be left to die off, but as to the Polish war prisoners, the orders say that they are to be simply exterminated.' 'How is that? How should it be understood?' I exclaimed. 'This should be understood literally. There is such a directive from Berlin,' answered Menshagin, and asked me 'for the sake of all that is holy' not to tell anyone about this. . . ."

"About a fortnight after this conversation with Menshagin, when I was again received by him, I could not keep from asking: 'What news about the Poles?' Menshagin hesitated for a little, but then answered: 'Everything is over with them. Von Schwetz told me that they had been shot somewhere near Smolensk.' Seeing my bewilderment Menshagin warned me again about the necessity of keeping this affair in the strictest secrecy and then started 'explaining' to me the Germans' policy in this matter. He told me that the shooting of Poles was one link in the general chain of anti-Polish policy pursued by Germany, which became especially marked in connection with the conclusion of the Russo-Polish Treaty."

Bazilevsky also told the Special Commission about his conversation with the Sonderfuehrer of the Seventh Department of the German Kommandant's Office, Hirschfeld, a Baltic German who spoke good Russian:

"With cynical frankness Hirschfeld told me that the harmfulness and inferiority of the Poles had been proved by history and therefore reduction of Poland's population would fertilize the soil and make possible an extension of Germany's living space. In this connection Hirschfeld boasted that absolutely no

intellectuals had been left in Poland, as they had all been hanged, shot or confined in camps."

Bazilevsky's testimony is confirmed by the witness Yefimov, Professor of Physics, who has been interrogated by the Special Commission and whom Bazilevsky at that time, in the autumn of 1941, told about his conversation with Menshagin.

Documentary corroboration of Bazilevsky's and Yefimov's testimony is supplied by notes made by Menshagin in his own hand in his notebook. This notebook, containing 17 incomplete pages, was found in the files of the Smolensk Municipal Board after the liberation of Smolensk by the Red Army. Menshagin's ownership of the notebook and his handwriting have been confirmed both by Bazilevsky, who knew Menshagin's hand well, and by expert graphologists.

Judging by the dates in the notebook, its contents relate to the period from early August, 1941 to November of the same year. Among the various notes on economic matters (on firewood, electric power, trade, etc.) there are a number of notes made by Menshagin evidently as a reminder of instructions issued by the German commandant's office in Smolensk. These notes reveal with sufficient clarity the range of problems with which the Municipal Board dealt as the organ fulfilling all the instructions of the German command.

The first three pages of the notebook lay down in detail the procedure in organizing the Jewish "Ghetto" and the system of reprisals to be applied against the Jews.

Page 10, dated August 15, 1941, contains the following note: "All fugitive Polish war prisoners are to be detained and delivered to the commandant's office." Page 15 (undated) contains the entry: "Are there any rumors among the population concerning the shooting of Polish war prisoners in Kozy Gory (for Umnov)."

It transpires from the first entry, firstly, that on August 15, 1941, Polish war prisoners were still in the Smolensk area and, secondly, that they were being arrested by the German authorities. The second entry indicates that the German command, worried by the possibility of rumors about the crime it had committed circulating among the civilian population, issued special instructions for the purpose of checking this surmise. Umnov, mentioned in this entry, was the Chief of the Russian Police in Smolensk during the early months of its occupation.

Beginning of German Provocation

In the winter of 1942-43 the general military situation changed sharply to the disadvantage of the Germans. The military power of the Soviet Union was continually growing stronger. The unity between the USSR and her Allies was growing stronger. The Germans resolved to launch a provocation, using for this purpose the crimes they had committed in the

Katyn Forest, and ascribing them to the organs of the Soviet authorities. In this way they intended to set the Russians and Poles at loggerheads and to cover up the traces of their own crimes. A priest, Ogloblin, of the village of Kuprino in the Smolensk district, stated:

"After the events at Stalingrad, when the Germans began to feel uncertain, they launched this business. The people started to say that 'the Germans are trying to mend their affairs.' Having embarked on the preparation of the Katyn provocation, the Germans first set about looking for witnesses who would, under the influence of persuasion, bribes or threats, give the testimony which the Germans needed. The attention of the Germans was attracted to the peasant Parfen Gavrilovich Kisselev, born in 1870, who lived in the hamlet nearest to the house in Kozy Gory."

Kisselev was summoned to the Gestapo at the close of 1942. Under the threat of reprisals, they demanded of him fictitious testimony alleging that he knew that in the spring of 1940 the Bolsheviks shot Polish war prisoners at the country house of the administration of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs in Kozy Gory.

Kisselev informed the Commission: "In the autumn of 1942 two policemen came to my house and ordered me to report to the Gestapo at Gnezdovo station. On that same day I went to the Gestapo, which had its premises in a two-story house next to the railway station. In a room there were a German officer and interpreter. The German officer started asking me through the interpreter how long I had lived in that district, what my occupation and my material circumstances were. I told him that I had lived in the hamlet in the area of Kozy Gory since 1907 and worked on my farm. As to my material circumstances, I said that I had experienced some difficulties since I was old and my sons were at the war.

"After a brief conversation on this subject, the officer stated that, according to information at the disposal of the Gestapo, in 1940, in the area of Kozy Gory in the Katyn Forest, staff members of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs shot Polish officers, and he asked me what testimony I could give on this score. I answered that I had never heard of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs shooting people at Kozy Gory, and that anyhow it was impossible, I explained to the officer, since Kozy Gory is an absolutely open and much frequented place, and if shootings had gone on there the entire population of the neighboring villages would have known.

"The officer told me I must nevertheless give such evidence, because he alleged the shootings did take place. I was promised a big reward for this testimony. I told the officer again that I did not know anything about shootings, and that nothing of the sort could have taken place in our locality before the war. In spite of this, the officer obstinately insisted on my giving false evidence.

"After the first conversation about which I have already spoken, I was summoned again to the Gestapo in February, 1943. By that time I knew that other residents of neighboring villages had also been summoned to the Gestapo and that the same testimony they demanded of me had also been demanded of them.

"At the Gestapo the same officer and interpreter who had interrogated me the first time again demanded of me evidence that I had witnessed the shooting of Polish officers, allegedly effected by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs in 1940. I again told the Gestapo officer that this was a lie, as before the war I had not heard anything about any shootings, and that I would not give false evidence. The interpreter, however, would not listen to me, but took a handwritten document from the desk and read it to me. It said that I, Kisselev, resident of a hamlet in the Kozy Gory area, personally witnessed the shooting of Polish officers by staff members of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs in 1940.

"Having read this document, the interpreter told me to sign it. I refused to do so. The interpreter began to force me to do it by abuse and threats. Finally he shouted: 'Either you sign it at once or we shall destroy you. Make your choice!'

"Frightened by these threats, I signed the document and thought that would be the end of the matter."

Later, after the Germans had arranged visits to the Katyn graves by various "delegations." Kisselev was made to speak before a "Polish delegation" which arrived there. Kisselev forgot the contents of the protocol he had signed at the Gestapo, got mixed up, and finally refused to speak. The Gestapo then arrested Kisselev, and, by ruthless beatings, in the course of six weeks again obtained his consent to "public speeches."

In this connection Kisselev stated: "In reality things went quite a different way. In spring of 1943 the Germans announced that in the Kozy Gory area in Katyn Forest they had discovered the graves of Polish officers allegedly shot in 1940 by organs of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. Soon after that the Gestapo interpreter came to my house and took me to the forest in the Kozy Gory area.

"When we had left the house and were alone together, the interpreter warned me that I must tell the people present in the forest everything exactly as it was written down in the document I had signed at the Gestapo.

"When I came into the forest I saw open graves and a group of strangers. The interpreter told me that these were 'Polish delegates' who had arrived to inspect the graves. When we approached the graves the 'delegates' started asking me various questions in Russian in connection with the shooting of Poles, but more than a month had passed since I had been

summoned to the Gestapo I forgot everything that was in the document I had signed, got mixed up, and finally said I did not know anything about the shooting of Polish officers.

"The German officer got very angry. The interpreter roughly dragged me away from the 'delegation' and chased me off. Next morning a car with a Gestapo officer drove up to my house. He found me in the yard, told me that I was under arrest, put me into the car and took me to Smolensk Prison. . . .

"After my arrest I was interrogated many times, but they beat me more than they questioned me. The first time they summoned me they beat me up heavily and abused me, complaining that I had let them down, and then sent me back to the cell. During the next summons they told me I must state publicly that I had witnessed the shooting of Polish officers by the Bolsheviks, and that until the Gestapo was satisfied I would do this in good faith I would not be released from prison. I told the officer that I would rather sit in prison than tell people lies to their faces. After that I was badly beaten up.

"There were several such interrogations accompanied by beatings, and as a result I lost all my strength, my hearing became poor and I could not move my right arm. About one month after my arrest a German officer summoned me and said: 'You see the consequences of your obstinacy, Kisselev. We have decided to execute you. In the morning we shall take you to Katyn Forest and hang you.' I asked the officer not to do this, and started pleading with him that I was not fit for the part of 'eye-witness' of the shooting as I did not know how to tell lies and therefore I would mix everything up again.

"The officer continued to insist. Several minutes later soldiers came into the room and started beating me with rubber clubs. Being unable to stand the beatings and torture, I agreed to appear publicly with a fallacious tale about shooting of Poles by Bolsheviks. After that I was released from prison on condition that on the first demand of the Germans I would speak before 'delegations' in Katyn Forest. . . .

"On every occasion, before leading me to the graves in the forest, the interpreter used to come to my house, call me out into the yard, take me aside to make sure that no one would hear, and for half an hour make me memorize by heart everything I would have to say about the alleged shooting of Polish officers by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs in 1940.

"I recall that the interpreter told me something like this: 'I live in a cottage in Kozy Gory area not far from the country house of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. In spring, 1940, I saw Poles taken on various nights to the forest and shot there.' And then it was imperative that I must state literally that 'this was the doing of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs.' After I had memorized what the interpreter told me, he would take me

to the open graves in the forest and compel me to repeat all this in the presence of 'delegations' which came there.

"My statements were strictly supervised and directed by the Gestapo interpreter. Once when I spoke before some 'delegation' I was asked the question: 'Did you see these Poles personally before they were shot by the Bolsheviks?' I was not prepared for such a question and answered the way it was in fact, i.e., that I saw Polish war prisoners before the war, as they worked on the roads. Then the interpreter roughly dragged me aside and drove me home.

"Please believe me when I say that all the time I felt pangs of conscience, as I knew that in reality the Polish officers had been shot by the Germans in 1941. I had no other choice, as I was constantly threatened with the repetition of my arrest and torture."

Kisselev's testimony regarding his summons to the Gestapo, subsequent arrest and beatings are confirmed by his wife Aksinya Kisseleva, born in 1870, his son Vasili Kisselev, born in 1911, and his daughter-in-law Maria Kisseleva, born in 1918, who live with him, as well as by track foreman Timofey Sergeyev, born in 1901, who rents a room in Kisselev's hamlet. The injuries caused to Kisselev at the Gestapo (injury of shoulder, considerable impairment of hearing) are confirmed by a protocol of medical examination.

In their search for "witnesses" the Germans subsequently became interested in railway workers at the Gnezdovo station, two and a half kilometers from Kozy Gory, the station at which the Polish prisoners arrived in the spring of 1940. The Germans evidently wanted to obtain corresponding testimony from the railwaymen. For this purpose, in the spring of 1943 the Germans summoned to the Gestapo the ex-station master of Gnezdovo station, Ivanov, the station master on duty, Savvateyev, and others.

Ivanov, born in 1882, gave the following account of the circumstances in which he was summoned to the Gestapo: "It was in March, 1943. I was interrogated by a German officer in the presence of an interpreter. Having asked me through the interpreter who I was and what post I held at Gnezdovo station before the occupation of the district by the Germans, the officer inquired whether I knew that in the spring of 1940 large parties of captured Polish officers had arrived at Gnezdovo station in several trains. I said that I knew about this. The officer then asked me whether I knew that in the same spring, 1940, soon after the arrival of the Polish officers, the Bolsheviks had shot them all in the Katyn Forest. I answered that I did not know anything about that, and that it could not be so, as in the course of 1940-41, up to the occupation of Smolensk by the Germans, I had met captured Polish officers who had arrived in spring, 1940, at Gnezdovo station, and who were engaged in road construction work.

"The officer told me that if a German officer said

the Poles had been shot by the Bolsheviks it meant that this was the fact. 'Therefore,' the officer continued, 'you need not fear anything, and you can sign with a clear conscience a protocol saying that the captured Polish officers were shot by the Bolsheviks and that you witnessed it.'

"I replied that I was already an old man, that I was 61 years old, and did not want to commit a sin in my old age. I could only testify that the captured Poles really arrived at Gnezdovo station in the spring of 1940. The German officer began to persuade me to give the required testimony, promising that if I agreed he would promote me from the position of watchman on a railway crossing to that of station master of Gnezdovo station, which I had held under the Soviet Government, and also to provide for my material needs.

"The interpreter emphasized that my testimony as a former railway official at Gnezdovo station, the nearest station to Katyn Forest, was extremely important for the German command, and that I would not regret it if I gave such testimony. I understood that I had landed in an extremely difficult situation, and that a sad fate awaited me. However, I again refused to give false testimony to the German officer. He started shouting at me, threatened me with beating and shooting, and said I did not understand what was good for me. However, I stood my ground. The interpreter then drew up a short protocol in German on one page, and gave me a free translation of its contents. This protocol recorded, as the interpreter told me, only the fact of the arrival of the Polish war prisoners at Gnezdovo station. When I asked that my testimony be recorded not only in German but also in Russian, the officer finally went beside himself with fury, beat me up with a rubber club and drove me off the premises. . . ."

Savvateyev, born in 1880, stated: "In the Gestapo I testified that in spring, 1940, Polish war prisoners arrived at the station of Gnezdovo in several trains and proceeded further in trucks, and I did not know where they went. I also added that I repeatedly met these Poles later on the Moscow-Minsk highway, where they were working on repairs in small groups. The officer told me I was mixing things up, that I could not have met the Poles on the highway, as they had been shot by the Bolsheviks, and demanded that I testify to this.

"I refused. After threatening and cajoling me for a long time, the officer consulted with the interpreter about something in German, and then the interpreter wrote a short protocol and gave it to me to sign. He explained that it was a record of my testimony. I asked the interpreter to let me read the protocol myself, but he interrupted me with abuse, ordering me to sign it immediately and get out. I hesitated a minute. The interpreter seized a rubber club hanging on the wall and made to strike me. After that I signed the protocol shoved at me. The interpreter told me to get out and go home, and not to talk to anyone or I would be shot. . . ."

The search for "witnesses" was not limited to the above-mentioned persons. The Germans strove persistently to locate former employees of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs and extort from them the false testimony which the Germans needed.

Having chanced to arrest Ignatyuk, formerly a laborer in the garage of the Smolensk Regional Administration of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, the Germans stubbornly, by threats and beatings, tried to extort from him testimony that he had been a car driver and not merely a laborer in the garage, and had himself driven Polish war prisoners to the shooting site.

Ignatyuk, born in 1903, testified in this connection: "When I was examined for the first time by Chief of Police Alferchik, he accused me of agitating against the German authorities, and asked what work I had done for the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. I replied that I had worked in the garage of the Smolensk Regional Administration of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs as a laborer. At this examination Alferchik tried to get me to testify that I had worked as a car driver and not as a laborer. Alferchik was greatly irritated by his failure to obtain the required testimony from me, and he and his aide, whom he called George, tied up my head and mouth with some rag, removed my trousers, laid me on a table and began to beat me with rubber clubs.

"After that I was summoned again for examination, and Alferchik demanded that I give him false testimony to the effect that the Polish officers had been shot in Katyn Forest by organs of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs in 1940, of which I allegedly was aware, as a chauffeur who had taken part in driving the Polish officers to Katyn Forest, and who had been present at their shooting. Alferchik promised to liberate me from prison if I would agree to give such testimony, and get me a job with the police where I would be given good living conditions—otherwise they would shoot me. . . .

"The last time I was interrogated in the police station by examiner Alexandrov, who demanded from me the same false testimony about the shooting of the Polish officers as Alferchik, but at this examination, too, I refused to give false evidence. After this examination I was again beaten up and sent to the Gestapo. . . . In the Gestapo, just as at the police station, they demanded from me false evidence about the shooting of the Polish officers in Katyn Forest in 1940 by Soviet authorities, of which I as car driver was allegedly aware."

A book published by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and containing material about the "Katyn Affair," fabricated by the Germans, refers to other "witnesses" besides the above-mentioned Kiselev: Godesov (alias Godunov) born in 1877, Grigori Silversov born in 1891, Ivan Andreyev born in 1917, Mikhail Zhigulev born in 1915, Ivan Krivozertsev born in 1915 and Matvey Zakharov born in 1893.

A check-up revealed that the first two of the above persons (Godesov and Silversov) died in 1943 before the liberation of the Smolensk Region by the Red Army; the next three (Andreyev, Zhigulev and Krivozertsev) left with the Germans, or perhaps were forcibly abducted by them, while the last—Matvey Zakharov—formerly a coupler at Smolensk Station, who worked under the Germans as headman in the village Novye Bateki, was located and examined by the Special Commission.

Zakharov related how the Germans got from him the false testimony they needed about the "Katyn Affair": "Early in March, 1943 an employee of the Gnezdovo Gestapo whose name I do not know came to my house and told me that an officer wanted to see me. When I arrived at the Gestapo a German officer told me through an interpreter: 'We know you worked as coupler at Smolensk Central Station and you must testify that in 1940 cars with Polish war prisoners passed through Smolensk on the way to Gnezdovo, after which the Poles were shot in the forest at Kozy Gory.' In reply I stated that in 1940 cars with Poles did pass Smolensk westwards, but I did not know what their destination was.

"The officer told me that if I did not want to testify of my own accord he would force me to do so. After saying this he took a rubber club and began to beat me up. Then I was laid on a bench and the officer, together with the interpreter, beat me. I do not remember how many strokes I had, because I soon fainted.

"When I came to, the officer demanded that I sign a protocol of the examination. I had lost courage as a result of the beating and threats of shooting, so I gave false evidence and signed the protocol. After I had signed the protocol I was released from the Gestapo.

"Several days after I had been summoned to the Gestapo, approximately in mid-March, 1943, the interpreter came to my house and said I must go to the German general and confirm my testimony in his presence. The general asked me whether I confirmed my testimony. I said I did confirm it, as on the way I had been warned by the interpreter that if I refused to confirm the testimony I would have a much worse experience than I had on my first visit to the Gestapo.

"Fearing a repetition of the torture, I replied that I confirmed my testimony. Then the interpreter ordered me to raise my right hand, and told me I had taken an oath and could go home."

It has been established that in other cases also the Germans used persuasion, threats and torture in trying to obtain the testimony they needed, for example from Kaverznev, former deputy chief of the Smolensk Prison, and Kovalev, former staff member of the same prison. Since the search for the required number of witnesses failed to yield any success, the Germans posted up in Smolensk city and neighboring villages the following handbill, an original of which is in the files of the Special Commission:

"Notice to the population. Who can give information concerning the mass murder of prisoners, Polish officers and priests by the Bolsheviks in the forest of Kozy Gory near the Gnezdovo-Katyn highway in 1940? Who saw columns of trucks on their way from Gnezdovo to Kozy Gory, or who saw or heard the shootings? Who knows residents who can tell about this? Rewards will be given for any information. Information to be sent to Smolensk, German Police Station, No. 6, Muzeinaya Street, and in Gnezdovo to the German Police Station, house No. 105 near the railway station. Foss, Lieutenant of Field Police, May 3, 1943."

A similar notice was printed in the newspaper *Novy Put*, published by the Germans in Smolensk—No. 35 (157) for May 6, 1943.

The fact that the Germans promised rewards for the evidence they needed on the "Katyn Affair" was confirmed by witnesses called by the Special Commission: Sokolova, Pushchina, Bychkov, Tondarev, Ustinov and many other residents of Smolensk.

Preparing Katyn Graves

Along with the search for "witnesses" the Germans proceeded with the preparation of the graves in Katyn Forest: they removed from the clothing of the Polish prisoners whom they had killed all documents dated later than April, 1940—that is, the time when, according to the German provocation version, the Poles were shot by the Bolsheviks—and removed all material evidence which could disprove this provocation version. In its investigation the Special Commission revealed that for this purpose the Germans used up to 500 Russian war prisoners specially selected from war prisoners' camp No. 126.

The Special Commission has at its disposal numerous statements of witnesses on this matter. The evidence of the medical personnel of the above-mentioned camp merits special attention. Dr. Chizhov, who worked in camp No. 126 during the German occupation of Smolensk, testified:

"Just about the beginning of March, 1943, several groups of the physically stronger war prisoners, totalling about 500, were sent from the Smolensk camp No. 126 ostensibly for trench work. None of these prisoners ever returned to the camp."

Dr. Khmurov, who worked in the same camp under the Germans, testified:

"I know that somewhere about the second half of February or the beginning of March, 1943, about 500 Red Army men prisoners were sent from our camp to a destination unknown to me. The prisoners were apparently to be used for trench digging, for the more physically fit men were selected. . . ."

Identical evidence was given by medical nurse Lenkovskaya, medical nurse Timofeyeva, and witnesses Orlova, Dobroserdova and Kochetkov.

The testimony of Moskovskaya made it clear where

the 500 war prisoners from camp 126 were actually sent. On October 5, 1943, the citizen Moskovskaya, Alexandra Mikhailovna, who lived on the outskirts of Smolensk and had worked during the occupation in the kitchen of a German military unit, filed an application to the Extraordinary Committee for the Investigation of Atrocities Perpetrated by the German Invaders, requesting them to summon her to give important evidence. She told the Special Commission that before leaving for work in March, 1943, when she went to fetch firewood from her shed in the yard on the banks of the Dnieper, she discovered there an unknown person who proved to be a Russian war prisoner.

Moskovskaya, who was born in 1922, testified:

"From conversation with him I learned that his name was Nikolai Yegorov, a native of Leningrad. Since the end of 1941 he had been in the German camp No. 126 for war prisoners in the town of Smolensk. At the beginning of March, 1943 he was sent with a column of several hundred war prisoners from the camp to Katyn Forest. There they, including Yegorov, were compelled to dig up graves containing bodies in the uniforms of Polish officers, drag these bodies out of the graves and take out of their pockets documents, letters, photographs and all other articles.

"The Germans gave the strictest orders that nothing be left in the pockets on the bodies. Two war prisoners were shot because after they had searched some of the bodies, a German officer discovered some papers on these bodies. Articles, documents and letters extracted from the clothing on the bodies were examined by the German officers, who then compelled the prisoners to put part of the papers back into the pockets on the bodies, while the rest was flung on a heap of articles and documents they had extracted, and later burned.

"Besides this, the Germans made the prisoners put into the pockets of the Polish officers some papers which they took from the cases or suitcases (I don't remember exactly) which they had brought along. All the war prisoners lived in Katyn Forest in dreadful conditions under the open sky, and were extremely strongly guarded. . . . At the beginning of April, 1943 all the work planned by the Germans was apparently completed, as for three days not one of the war prisoners had to do any work. . . .

"Suddenly at night all of them without exception were awakened and led somewhere. The guard was strengthened. Yegorov sensed something was wrong and began to watch very closely everything that was happening. They marched for three or four hours in an unknown direction. They stopped in the forest at a pit in a clearing. He saw how a group of war prisoners were separated from the rest and driven towards the pit and then shot. The war prisoners grew agitated, restless and noisy. Not far from Yegorov several war prisoners attacked the guards. Other guards ran towards the place. Yegorov took ad-

vantage of the confusion and ran away into the dark forest, hearing shouts and firing.

"After hearing this terrible story, which is engraved on my memory for the rest of my life, I became very sorry for Yegorov, and told him to come to my room, get warm and hide at my place until he had regained his strength. But Yegorov refused. . . . He said no matter what happened he was going away that very night, and intended to try to get through the front line to the Red Army. In the morning, when I went to make sure whether Yegorov had gone, he was still in the shed. It appeared that in the night he had attempted to set out, but had only taken about 50 steps when he felt so weak that he was forced to return. This exhaustion was caused by the long imprisonment at the camp and the starvation of the last days. We decided he should remain at my place several days longer to regain his strength. After feeding Yegorov I went to work. When I returned home in the evening my neighbors Baranova, Maria Ivanovna and Kabanovskaya, Yekaterina Viktorovna told me that in the afternoon, during a search by the German police, the Red Army war prisoner had been found, and taken away."

As a result of the discovery of the war prisoner Yegorov in the shed, Moskovskaya was called to the Gestapo, where she was accused of hiding a war prisoner. At the Gestapo interrogation Moskovskaya stoutly denied that she had any connection with this war prisoner, maintaining she knew nothing about his presence in her shed. Since they got no admission from Moskovskaya, and also because the war prisoner Yegorov evidently had not incriminated Moskovskaya, she was let out of the Gestapo.

The same Yegorov told Moskovskaya that as well as excavating bodies in Katyn Forest, the war prisoners were used to bring bodies to the Katyn Forest from other places.

The bodies so brought were thrown into pits along with the bodies that had been dug up earlier. The fact that a great number of bodies of people shot by the Germans in other places were brought to the Katyn graves is confirmed also by the testimony of engineer mechanic K. S. Sukhachev, born in 1912, an engineer mechanic of the Rosglavkhleb combine, who worked under the Germans as a mechanic in the Smolensk city mill. On October 8, 1943, he filed a request that he be called to testify. Called before the Special Commission, he stated:

"I was working at the mill in the second half of March, 1943. There I spoke to a German chauffeur who spoke a little Russian, and since he was carrying flour to Savenki village for the troops, and was returning on the next day to Smolensk, I asked him to take me along so that I could buy some fats in the village. My idea was that making the trip in a German truck would get over the risk of being held up at the control stations. The German agreed to take me, at a price.

"On the same day at 10 P.M. we drove on to the Smolensk-Vitebsk highway, just myself and the German driver in the machine. The night was light, and only a low mist over the road reduced the visibility. Approximately 22 or 23 kilometers from Smolensk at a demolished bridge on the highway there is a rather deep descent at the by-pass. We began to go down from the highway, when suddenly a truck appeared out of the fog coming towards us. Either because our brakes were out of order, or because the driver was inexperienced, we were unable to bring our truck to a halt, and since the passage was quite narrow we collided with the truck coming towards us. The impact was not very violent, as the driver of the other truck swerved to the side, as a result of which the trucks bumped and slid alongside each other.

"The right wheel of the other truck, however, landed in the ditch, and the truck fell over on the slope. Our truck remained upright. The driver and I immediately jumped out of the cabin and ran up to the truck which had fallen down. We were met by a heavy stench of putrifying flesh coming evidently from the truck.

"On coming nearer, I saw that the truck was carrying a load covered with a tarpaulin and tied up with ropes. The ropes had snapped with the impact, and part of the load had fallen out on the slope. This was a horrible load—human bodies dressed in military uniforms. As far as I can remember there were some six or seven men near the truck: one German driver, two Germans armed with tommy guns—the rest were Russian war prisoners, as they spoke Russian and were dressed accordingly.

"The Germans began to abuse my driver and then made some attempts to right the truck. In about two minutes' time two more trucks drove up to the place of the accident and pulled up. A group of Germans and Russian war prisoners, about ten men in all, came up to us from these trucks. . . . By joint efforts we began to raise the truck. Taking advantage of an opportune moment I asked one of the Russian war prisoners in a low voice: 'What is it?' He answered very quietly: 'For many nights already we have been carrying bodies to Katyn Forest.'

"Before the overturned truck had been raised a German N.C.O. came up to me and my driver and ordered us to proceed immediately. As no serious damage had been done to our truck the driver steered it a little to one side and got on to the highway, and we went on. When we were passing the two covered trucks which had come up later, I again smelled the horrible stench of dead bodies."

Sukhachev's testimony is confirmed by that of Vladimir Afanasievich Yegorov, who served as policeman in the police station during the occupation. Yegorov testified that when owing to the nature of his duties he was guarding a bridge at a crossing of the Moscow-Minsk and Smolensk-Vitebsk highways at the end of March and early in April, 1943, he saw

going towards Smolensk on several nights big trucks covered with tarpaulins and spreading a heavy stench of dead flesh. Several men, some of whom were armed and were undoubtedly Germans, sat in the driver's cabin of each truck, and behind.

Yegorov reported his observations to Kuzma Demyanovich Golovnev, chief of the police station in the village of Arkhipovka, who advised him to "hold his tongue" and added: "This does not concern us. We have no business to be mixing in German affairs."

That the Germans were carrying bodies on trucks to the Katyn Forest is also testified by Frol Maximovich Yakovlev-Sokolov (born in 1896), a former agent for restaurant supplies in the Smolensk restaurant trust and, under the Germans, chief of police of Katyn. He stated that once, early in April, 1943, he himself saw four tarpaulin-covered trucks passing along the highway to Katyn Forest. Several men armed with tommy guns and rifles rode in them. An acrid stench of flesh came from these trucks.

From the above testimony it can be concluded with all clarity that the Germans shot Poles in other places, too. In bringing their bodies to the Katyn Forest they pursued a triple object: firstly to destroy the traces of their own crimes, secondly to ascribe their own crimes to the Soviet Government, thirdly to increase the number of "victims of Bolshevism" in the Katyn Forest graves.

"Excursions" to the Katyn Graves

In April, 1943, having finished all the preparatory work at the graves in Katyn Forest, the German occupationists began a wide campaign in the press and over the radio in an attempt to ascribe to the Soviet power atrocities they themselves had committed against Polish war prisoners. As one method of provocation agitation, the Germans arranged visits to the Katyn graves by residents of Smolensk and its suburbs as well as "delegations" from countries occupied by the German invaders or their vassals. The Special Commission questioned a number of delegates who took part in the "excursions" to the Katyn graves.

Zhukov, a doctor specializing in pathological anatomy who worked as medico-legal expert in Smolensk, testified before the Special Commission: "The clothing of the bodies, particularly the overcoats, boots and belts, were in a good state of preservation. The metal parts of the clothing—belt buckles, button hooks and spikes on shoe soles, etc.—were not heavily rusted, and in some cases the metal still retained its polish. Sections of the skin of the bodies which could be seen—faces, necks, arms—were chiefly a dirty green color and in some cases dirty brown, but there was no complete disintegration of the tissues, no putrefaction. In some cases bared tendons of whitish color and parts of muscles could be seen.

"While I was at the excavations people were at work sorting and extracting bodies at the bottom of a

big pit. For this purpose they used spades and other tools, and also took hold of bodies with their hands and dragged them from place to place by the arms, the legs or the clothing. I did not see a single case of bodies falling apart or of any member being torn off.

"Considering all the above, I arrived at the conclusion that the bodies had remained in the earth not three years, as the Germans affirmed, but much less. Knowing that in mass graves, and especially without coffins, putrefaction of bodies progresses more quickly than in single graves, I concluded that the mass shooting of the Poles had taken place about a year and a half ago, and could have occurred in autumn, 1941, or in spring, 1942. As a result of my visit to the excavation site I became firmly convinced that a monstrous crime had been committed by the Germans."

Testimony to the effect that the clothing of the bodies, its metal parts, shoes and even the bodies themselves were well preserved was given by numerous witnesses who took part in "excursions" to the Katyn graves and who were questioned by the Special Commission. These witnesses include the manager of the Smolensk water supply system, Kitzev; a Katyn school teacher, Vetrova; a telephone operator of Smolensk communications bureau, Shchedrova; a resident of the village of Borok, Alexeyev; a resident of the village of Novye Bateki, Krivozertsev; the station master on duty at Gnezdovo station, Savvateyev; a citizen of Smolensk, Pushchina; a doctor at the Second Smolensk Hospital, Sidoruk; Kesserev, a doctor at the same hospital.

Germans Attempt to Cover Up Traces of Their Crimes

The "excursions" organized by the Germans failed to achieve their aims. All who visited the graves saw for themselves that they were confronted with the crudest and most obvious German-fascist frame-up. The German authorities accordingly took steps to make the doubters keep quiet. The Special Commission heard the testimony of a great number of witnesses who related how the German authorities persecuted those who doubted or disbelieved the provocation. These doubters were discharged from work, arrested, threatened with shooting.

The Commission established that in two cases people were shot for failure to "hold their tongues." Such reprisals were taken against the former German policeman Zagainev, and against Yegorov, who worked on the excavation of graves in Katyn Forest. Testimony about the persecution of people who expressed doubt after visiting the graves in Katyn Forest was given by Zubareva, a woman cleaner employed by drug store No. 1 in Smolensk; Kozlova, assistant sanitation doctor of Stalin District Health Department in Smolensk, and others.

Yakovlev-Sokolov, former Chief of Police of the Katyn area, testified: "A situation arose which caused serious alarm in the German commandant's office, and police organs in the periphery were given urgent

instructions to nip in the bud all harmful talk at any price, and arrest all persons who expressed disbelief in the 'Katyn Affair.' I myself, as chief of the area police, was given instructions to this effect at the end of May, 1943 by the German commandant of the village of Katyn, Oberleutnant Braung, and at the beginning of June by the chief of Smolensk District police, Kamensky.

"I called an instructional conference of the police in my area, at which I ordered the police to detain and bring to the police station anyone who expressed disbelief or doubted the truth of German reports about the shooting of German war prisoners by the Bolsheviks. In fulfilling these instructions of the German authorities I clearly acted against my conscience, as I myself was certain that the 'Katyn Affair' was a German frame-up. I became finally convinced of that when I myself made an 'excursion' to Katyn forest."

Seeing that the summer 1943 "excursions" of the local population to the Katyn graves did not achieve their purpose, the German occupation authorities ordered the graves to be filled in. Before their retreat from Smolensk they began hastily to cover up the traces of their crimes. The country house occupied

by the "H.Q. of the 537th Engineering Battalion" was burned to the ground.

The Germans searched for the three girls—Alexeyeva, Mikhailova and Konakhovskaya—in the village of Borok in order to take them away and perhaps to kill them. They also searched for their main "witness," Kisselev, who together with his family had succeeded in hiding. The Germans burned down his house. They endeavored to seize other "witnesses" too—the former station master of Gnezdovo, Ivanov, and the former acting station master of the same station, Savvateyev, as well as the former coupler at the Smolensk station, Zakharov.

During the very last days before their retreat from Smolensk, the German-fascist occupationists looked for Professors Bazilevsky and Yefimov. Both succeeded in evading deportation or death only because they had escaped in good time. Nevertheless, the German-fascist invaders did not succeed in covering up the traces of or concealing their crime.

Examination by medico-legal experts of the exhumed bodies proved irrefutably that the Polish war prisoners were shot by the Germans themselves. The protocol of the Medico-Legal Experts' Investigation follows.

PROTOCOL OF THE MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERTS' INVESTIGATION

In accordance with the instructions of the Special Commission for ascertaining and investigating the circumstances of the shooting of Polish officer prisoners by the German-fascist invaders in Katyn Forest (near Smolensk), a Commission of Medico-Legal Experts was set up consisting of PROZOROVSKY, Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR and Director of the State Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Medicine; Doctor of Medicine SMOLYANINOV, Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Second Moscow State Medical Institute; Doctor of Medicine VOROPAYEV, Professor of Pathological Anatomy; Doctor SEMENOVSKY, senior staff scientist of the Thanatology Department of the State Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Medicine under the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR; Assistant Professor SHVAIKOVA, senior staff scientist of the Chemico-Legal Department of the State Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Medicine under the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR; with the participation of Major of Medical Service NIKOLSKY, Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the Western Front; Captain of Medical Service BUSOYEDOV, Medico-Legal Expert of the X. Army; Major of Medical Service SUBBOTIN, Chief of Pathological Anatomy Laboratory No. 92; Major of Medical Service OGLOBLIN; Senior Lieutenant of Medical Service SADYKOV, medical specialist; Senior Lieutenant of Medical Service PUSHKAREVA.

During the period between January 16 and January 23, 1944, these medico-legal experts conducted exhumation and medico-legal examination of the bodies of Polish war prisoners buried in graves on the territory of Kozy Gory in Katyn Forest 15 kilometers from Smolensk. The bodies of Polish war prisoners were buried in a common grave about 60 by 60 by three meters in dimension, and also in another grave about seven by six by three and a half meters. Nine hundred and twenty-five bodies were exhumed from the graves and examined. The exhumation and medico-legal examination of the bodies were effected in order to establish: (a) identity of the dead; (b) causes of death; (c) time of burial.

Circumstances of the case: See materials of the Special Commission. Objective evidence: See the

protocols of the medico-legal examination of the bodies.

Conclusion of Medico-Legal Experts

On the basis of the results of the medico-legal examination of the bodies, the Commission of medico-legal experts arrived at the following conclusion:

Upon the opening of the graves and exhumations of bodies from them, it was established that:

(a) Among the mass of bodies of Polish war prisoners there were bodies in civilian clothes, the number of which, in relation to the total number of bodies examined, is insignificant (in all two out of 925 exhumed bodies); shoes of army pattern were on these bodies.

(b) The clothing on the bodies of the war prisoners showed that they were officers, and included some privates of the Polish army.

(c) Slits in the pockets, pockets turned inside out, and tears in them discovered during examination of the clothing show that as a rule all the clothes on each body (overcoats, trousers, etc.) bear traces of searches effected of the dead bodies.

(d) In some cases whole pockets were found during examination of the clothing, scraps of newspapers, prayer books, pocket books, postage stamps, postcards and letters, receipts, notes and other documents, as well as articles of value (a gold nugget, dollars). Pipes, pocket knives, cigarette papers, handkerchiefs and other articles were found in these pockets, as well as in the turned-out and torn pockets, under the linings, in the belts of the coats, in footwear and socks.

(e) Some of the documents found contain data referring to the period between November 12, 1940 and June 20, 1941.

(f) The fabric of clothes, especially of overcoats, uniforms, trousers and tunics, is in a good state of preservation and can be torn with the hands only with great difficulty.

(g) A very small proportion of the bodies (20 out of 925) had the hands tied behind the back with woven cords. The condition of the clothes on the bodies—namely, the fact that uniform jackets, shirts, belts, trousers and underwear are buttoned up, boots or shoes are on the feet, scarves and ties tied around the necks, suspenders attached, shirts tucked in—testifies that no external examination of the bodies and extremities of the bodies had been effected previously. The intact state of the skin on the heads, and the absence on them, as on the skin of the chests and abdomens (save in three cases out of 925) of any incisions, cuts or other signs, show convincingly that, judging by the bodies exhumed by the experts' commission, there had been no medico-legal examination of the bodies.

External and internal examination of 925 bodies proves the existence of bullet wounds on the head and neck, combined in four cases with injury of the bones of the cranium caused by a blunt, hard, heavy object. Also, in a small number of cases were discovered injuries of the abdomen caused simultaneously with the wound in the head.

Entry orifices of the bullet wounds, as a rule singular, more rarely double, are situated in the occipital part of the head near the occipital protuberance, at the big occipital orifice or at its edge. In a few cases entry orifices of bullets have been found on the back surface of the neck, corresponding to the first or second or third vertebra of the neck. The points of exit of the bullets have been found more frequently in the frontal area, more rarely in the parietal and templar areas as well as in the face and neck.

In 27 cases the bullet wounds proved to be blind (without exit orifices), and at the end of the bullet channels under the soft membrane of the cranium, in its bones, in the membranes and in the brain matter, were found deformed, barely deformed, or altogether undeformed cased bullets of the type used with automatic pistols, mostly of the 7.65 mm. caliber.

The dimensions of the entry orifices in the occipital bone make it possible to draw the conclusion that firearms of two calibers were employed in the shooting: in the majority of cases, those of less than 8 mm., i.e., 7.65 mm. or less, and in a lesser number of cases, those of more than 8 mm., i.e., 9 mm.

The nature of the fissures of the cranial bones, and the fact that in some cases traces of powder were found at the entry orifice, proves that the shots were fired pointblank or nearly pointblank. Correlation of the points of entry and exit of the bullets shows that the shots were fired from behind with the head bent forward. The bullet channel pierced the vital parts of the brain, or near them, and death was caused by destruction of the brain tissues. The injuries inflicted by a blunt, hard, heavy object found on the parietal bones of the cranium were concurrent with the bullet wounds of the head, and were not in themselves the cause of death.

The medico-legal examination of the bodies carried out between January 16 and January 23, 1944, testifies that there are absolutely no bodies in a condition of decay or disintegration, and that all the 925 bodies are in a state of preservation—in the initial phase of desiccation of the body—which most frequently and clearly was expressed in the region of the thorax and abdomen, sometimes also in the extremities; and in the initial stage of formation of adipocere (in an advanced phase of formation of adipocere in the bodies extracted from the bottom of the graves); in a combination of desiccation of the tissues of the body with the formation of adipocere.

Especially noteworthy is the fact that the muscles of the trunk and extremities absolutely preserved their macroscopic structure and almost normal color; the internal organs of the thorax and peritoneal cavity preserved their configuration. In many cases sections of heart muscle have a clearly discernible structure and specific coloration, while the brain presented its characteristic structural peculiarities with a distinctly discernible border between the gray and white matter.

Besides the macroscopic examination of the tissues and organs of the bodies, the medico-legal experts removed the necessary material for subsequent microscopic and chemical studies in laboratory conditions.

Properties of the soil in the place of discovery were of a certain significance in the preservation of the tissues and organs of the bodies. After the opening of the graves and exhumation of the bodies and their exposure to the air, the corpses were subject to the action of warmth and moisture in the late summer

season of 1943. This could have resulted in a vigorous progress of decay. However, the degree of desiccation of the bodies and formation of adipocere in them, especially the good state of preservation of the muscles and internal organs, as well as of the clothes, give grounds to affirm that the bodies had not remained in the earth for long.

Comparing the condition of bodies in the grave on the territory of Kozy Gory with the condition of the bodies in other burial places in Smolensk and its nearest environs—Gedeonovka, Maglenshchina, Readovka, camp No. 126, Krasny Bor, etc. (see protocol of the Commission of Medico-Legal Experts dated October 22, 1943)—it should be admitted that the bodies of the Polish war prisoners were buried on the territory of Kozy Gory about two years ago. This finds its complete corroboration in the documents found in the clothes of the bodies, which preclude the possibility of earlier burial (see point "d" of paragraph 36 and list of documents).

The commission of medico-legal experts, on the basis of the data and results of the investigation, consider as proved the fact of the killing by shooting of the Polish army officer and private war prisoners; asserts that this shooting dates back to about two years ago, i.e., between September and December of 1941; regards the fact of the discovery by the commission of medico-legal experts, in the clothes on the bodies, of valuables and documents dated 1941, as proof that the German-fascist authorities who undertook a search of the bodies in the spring-summer season of 1943 did not do it thoroughly, while the documents discovered testify that the shooting was done after June, 1941; notes that in 1943 the Germans

had made an extremely small number of post-mortem examinations of the bodies of the shot Polish war prisoners; notes the complete identity of method of the shooting of the Polish war prisoners with that of the shooting of Soviet civilians and war prisoners widely practiced by the German-fascist authorities in the temporarily occupied territory of the USSR, including the towns of Smolensk, Orel, Kharkov, Krasnodar and Voronezh.

(Signed)

Chief Medico-Legal Expert of the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR, Director of the State Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Medicine under the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR, PROZOROVSKY

Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Second Moscow State Medical Institute, Doctor of Medicine SMOLYANINOV

Professor of Pathological Anatomy, Doctor of Medicine VOROPAYEV

Senior Staff Scientist of Thanatological Department of the State Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Medicine under the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR, Doctor SEMENOVSKY

Senior Staff Scientist of the Forensic Chemistry Department of the State Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Medicine under the People's Commissariat of Health Protection of the USSR, Assistant Professor SHVAIKOVA.

Smolensk, January 24, 1944.

DOCUMENTS FOUND ON THE BODIES

Besides the data recorded in the protocol of the commission of medico-legal experts, the time of the shooting of the Polish officer prisoners by the Germans (autumn, 1941 and not spring, 1940 as the Germans assert) is also ascertained by documents found when the graves were opened, dated not only the latter half of 1940 but also the spring and summer (March-June) of 1941. Of the documents discovered by the medico-legal experts, the following deserve special attention:

1. On body No. 92: A letter from Warsaw addressed to the Central War Prisoners' Bureau of the Red Cross, Moscow, Kuibyshev Street, House No. 12. The letter is written in Russian. In this letter Sofia Zigon inquires the whereabouts of her husband Stanislas Zigon. The letter is dated September 12, 1940. The envelope bears the impress of a German rubber stamp "Warsaw Sept. 1940" and a rubber stamp "Moscow, Central Post Office, ninth delivery, Sept. 28, 1940" and an inscription in the Russian language: "Ascertain and forward for delivery, November 15, 1940" (signature illegible).

2. On body No. 4: A postcard registered under the number 0112 from Tarnopol stamped "Tarnopol Nov. 12, 1940." The written text and address are discolored.

3. On body No. 101: A receipt No. 10293 dated Dec. 19, 1939 issued by the Kozelsk camp testifying receipt of a gold watch from Eduard Adamovich Lewandowski. On the back of the receipt is a note dated March 14, 1941 on the sale of this watch to the Jewelry trading trust.

4. On body No. 46: A receipt (number illegible) issued December 16, 1939 by the Starobelsk camp testifying receipt of a gold watch from Vladimir Rudolfovich Araszkevich. On the back of the receipt is a note dated March 25, 1941 stating that the watch was sold to the Jewelry trading trust.

5. On body No. 71: A small paper ikon with the image of Christ, found between pages 144 and 145 of a Catholic prayer book. The inscription, with legible signature, on the back of the ikon reads: "Jadwiga" and bears the date April 4, 1941.

6. On body No. 46: A receipt dated April 6, 1941 issued by camp No. 1-ON, showing receipt of a sum in rubles from Araszkevicz.

7. On the same body, No. 46: A receipt dated May 5, 1941 issued by Camp No. 1-ON, showing receipt of 102 rubles from Araszkevicz.

8. On body No. 101: A receipt dated May 15, 1941 issued by Camp No. 1, showing receipt of 175 rubles from Lewandowski.

9. On body No. 53: An unmailed postcard in the Polish language addressed Warsaw Bagatelia 15, Flat 47, to Irene Kuczinska, and dated June 20, 1941. The sender is Stanislaw Kuczinski.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

From all the material at the disposal of the Special Commission, namely, evidence given by over 100 witnesses questioned, data supplied by the medico-legal experts, documents and material evidence found in the graves in the Katyn Forest, the following conclusions emerge with irrefutable clarity:

1. The Polish prisoners of war who were in the three camps west of Smolensk, and employed on road building before the outbreak of war, remained there after the German invaders reached Smolensk, until September, 1941, inclusive.

2. In the Katyn Forest, in the autumn of 1941, the German occupation authorities carried out mass shootings of Polish prisoners of war from the above-named camps.

3. The mass shootings of Polish prisoners of war in the Katyn Forest was carried out by a German military organization hiding behind the conventional name "H.Q. of the 537th Engineering Battalion," which consisted of Oberleutnant Arnes, his assistant Oberleutnant Rekst, and Lieutenant Hott.

4. In connection with the deterioration of the general military and political situation for Germany at the beginning of the year 1943, the German occupation authorities, with provocational aims, took a number of steps in order to ascribe their own crimes to the organs of the Soviet power, calculating on setting Russians and Poles at loggerheads.

5. With this aim, (a) the German-fascist invaders, using persuasion, attempts at bribery, threats and barbarous torture, tried to find witnesses among Soviet citizens, from whom they tried to extort false evidence alleging that the Polish prisoners of war had been shot by the organs of Soviet power in the spring of 1940; (b) the German occupation authorities in the spring of 1943 brought in from other districts bodies of Polish war prisoners whom they had shot and put them into the open graves in the Katyn Forest, calculating on covering up the traces of their own crimes, and on increasing the number of "victims of Bolshevik atrocities" in the Katyn Forest; (c) preparing for their provocation, the German occupation authorities started opening the graves in the Katyn Forest in order to take out documents and material evidence which exposed them, using for this work about 500 Russian prison-

ers of war who were shot by the Germans after the work was completed.

6. It has been established beyond doubt from the evidence of the medico-legal experts, that (a) the time of the shooting was the autumn of 1941; (b) in shooting the Polish war prisoners the German hangmen applied the same method of pistol shots in the back of the head as they applied in the mass execution of Soviet citizens in other towns, e.g., Orel, Voronezh, Krasnodar and Smolensk itself.

7. The conclusions drawn from the evidence given by witnesses, and from the findings of the medico-legal experts on the shooting of Polish war prisoners by the Germans in the autumn of 1941, are completely confirmed by the material evidence and documents excavated from the Katyn graves.

8. In shooting the Polish war prisoners in the Katyn Forest, the German-fascist invaders consistently carried out their policy of physical extermination of the Slav peoples.

(Signed)

Chairman of the Special Commission, Member of the Extraordinary State Committee Academician BURDENKO

(Members)

Member of the Extraordinary State Committee. Academician ALEXEI TOLSTOY

Member of the Extraordinary State Committee. the Metropolitan NIKOLAI

Chairman of the All-Slav Committee, Lieutenant General GUNDOROV

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Union of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, KOLESNIKOV

People's Commissar of Education of the Russian SFSR, Academician POTEKIN

Chief of the Central Medical Administration of the Red Army, Colonel General SMIRNOV

Chairman of the Smolensk Regional Executive Committee, MELNIKOV

Smolensk, January 24, 1944

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OUR HUMANISM

By Ilya Ehrenburg

One's heart freezes when one travels through a devastated region and sees what the Germans have done to our cities, our people and even our trees.

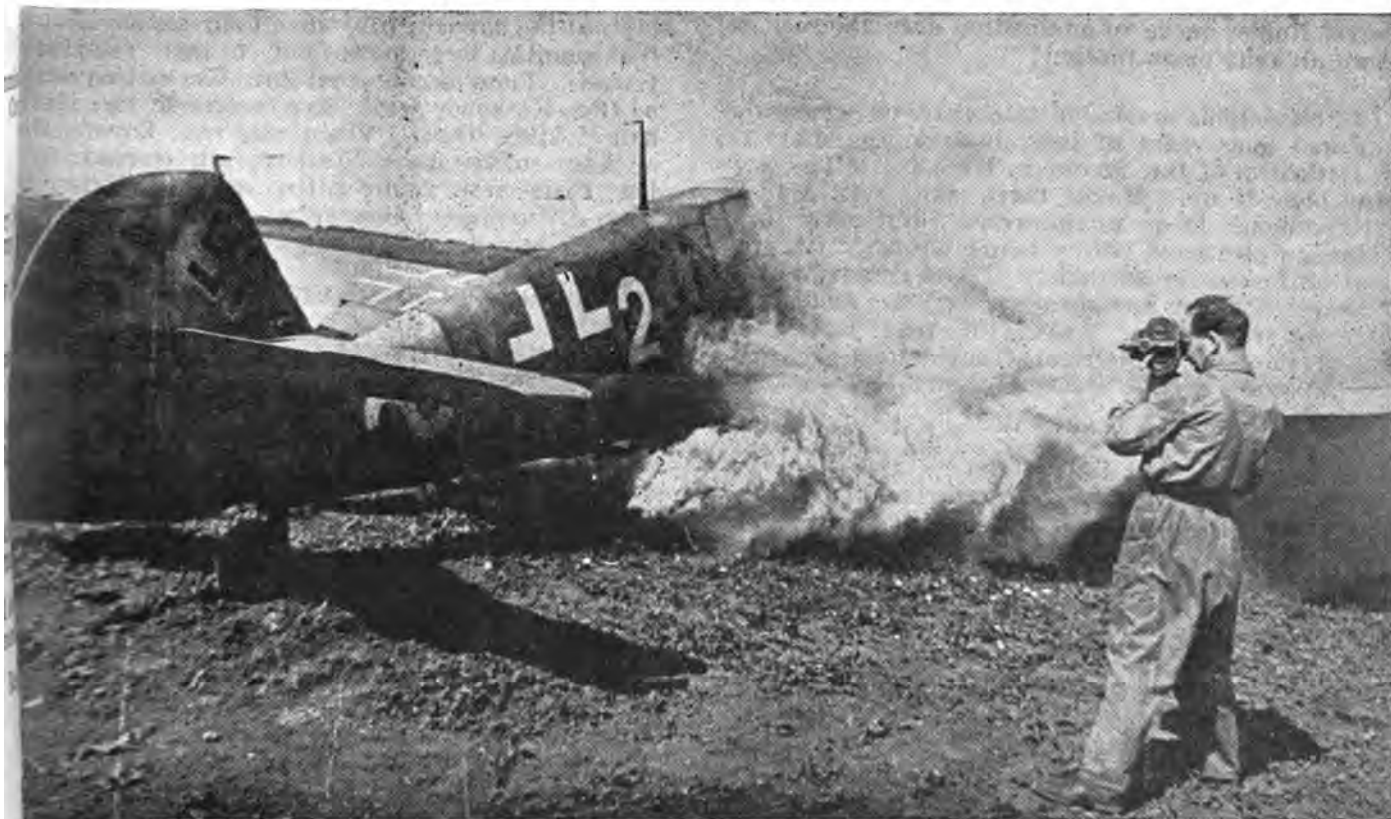
For years Hitler dreamed of such an apotheosis. He didn't want to exaggerate the role of that ambition-driven spiritual nonentity. I say "Hitler" as I might say "Mueller" or "Becker."

Where did he come from, this pigmy whose name is indissolubly associated with the woes of our age? Out of a crack in the ground, from the underworld. It

was there in the darkness and dampness of a semi-decayed society that the grub of fascism appeared; the world of failures, outcasts, superstitious and deranged maniacs, adventurers, pimps, swindlers and

cretins. Like shades from the darkness they were summoned to life by the purblind and covetous money magnates who wanted to halt the march of time. The fascists were to block the path of history with millions of corpses, to drown our age in blood, to eclipse the earth, to destroy not only the dreams of a better future but also the memory of the past.

When Hitler had himself photographed in front of the ruins of Amiens or Smolensk, people wondered where this graveyard beetle came from. Out of the rot and mold—that's where he came from. He lived for destruction. Two years before the outbreak of the war the all-powerful ruler of Germany, seeing at a Munich exhibit some pictures that were not to his



German plane brought down by Captain Tarasov is photographed by David Sholomovich, Soviet cameraman

taste, pulled out a pocket-knife and slashed the canvases. One of Hitler's intimates relates that in his youth the future Fuehrer dreamed of "clearing Europe." The peoples of Europe were to him like trees which had to be cut down.

The Fuehrer's friend Mussolini in his adolescence wondered whether science would ever reach such heights that by applying enough dynamite the whole terrestrial globe could be blown to pieces. Germany's scientists strove to approach this ideal when they pondered over the first designs for the murder van. A "desert zone"—such was the name they gave to their achievements.

Nature of Fascism is Destruction

As we gaze at the ruins of Novgorod and Chernigov, we may say that not only our people but all mankind has grown poorer with the loss of these monuments. A nation grows and changes, but there is something which knits together its long and winding path. There was a time when our people embodied their conception of truth, justice and beauty in cathedrals. Of course, the man of our age looks differently upon these monuments, but he senses in them the glow of our history. There is something in the heart which transcends the boundaries of time. Does not the cupola of St. Sophia or the colors of Andrei Rublev move to admiration even the man to whom all religion is foreign?

In Philadelphia and in Poitiers there were men who dedicated long years of their lives to the study of the Cathedral of Our Savior in Nereditsa. The Germans blew it up. Maybe there were even archeologists among those torchbearers. But what is a profession compared with a man's nature? And the nature of fascism is destruction. The Germans wanted to ravage not only our cornbins, but our minds and hearts as well. When I saw fruit trees which had been cut down by the Germans I understood what the puny Fuehrer howled about at night: he was conjuring up death.

The circles around the heart of a tree are comprehensible to man; they, as it were, mark the bond between the life of a tree and the life of a girl. I've often seen old men planting tiny trees. They knew they would die before they saw the fruits. The fruits would go to their children. Therein lies the inner truth of life.

There were trees which witnessed the glory of our ancestors, trees beneath which young Pushkin dreamed, trees which brooded over great tombs. To raise a tree is a long and difficult job. Rains are needed, and sunshine and human sweat. The Germans cut down the trees of Tsarskoye Selo and of Pushkin's home in Mikhailovskoye. They cut down apple trees on which

the apples were trembling, all pink or gold or lemon-colored, the sap and fragrance of the earth

Women know what it is to bear children. It is a compound of suffering and pride. Then begins the true torment of the mother: to prevent the child from catching cold, to protect it from diseases innumerable, to tend it and rear it. When the child begins to talk, when it totters stumbling from father to mother, it seems a miracle to the parents.

And indeed, is not man a miracle? How simple are even the most complex machines compared with the men who have invented them! The hour comes, and a Pushkin is born, or a Tolstoy or Mechnikov. Who knows what this child, now playing with an empty tin can, will grow up to be?

The magic of human life is not revealed in geniuses alone. "He's just an ordinary man," I have often heard said. That's like saying he is an "ordinary miracle." For the life of every man is splendid, complex and extraordinary. He lays roads across the ocean, he turns deserts into orchards, he builds wonderful cities. What can be higher than man?

Then along comes a persistent, systematic, pedantic fascist—and his one passion is to destroy human life. We all know how many splendid people died at the hands of the Germans. Many of them perished almost at the dawn of life, when their talents and spiritual qualities were known only to their relatives and friends. I don't know what Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya or Oleg Koshevoy would have become if the Germans hadn't killed them. When you read Zoya's diaries or hear stories about Koshevoy, it is clear to you that theirs were highly-gifted natures. They would have distinguished themselves in other spheres if it had not been for the fascists.

Our People Understand Value of Human Being

I recall the corpse of a young boy killed by the Germans in Byelorussia. Perhaps he would have grown up to be that great poet for whom we are all yearning, or a distinguished chemist or biologist, or a brilliant doctor who would have rid mankind of cancer. Who knows? Our people are talented and rich in spiritual qualities. The fascists came with their gas vans, and ditches and gullies are filled with the corpses of the trampled human harvest.

All these people and all the nations were created for happiness. But it may be said without falsehood or crude boasting that the Russian people understood the value of the human being more keenly and fully than anyone else. Foreigners say that Russian literature, the literature of Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov and Gorky, is the most humane of all literatures. No tinsel and no conventions could hide from the Russian writers the supreme blessing of human

In their songs, stories and legends our folk repeated what is expressed in the proverb: "Conscience is not a neighbor—it is not to be avoided." Our people were sincere and conscientious.

The Revolution extended the concept of humanism, clothed dreams in flesh. Of course, in the years of great storms it was hard, not only upon the reed but also upon the full-grown tree. But I recall Moscow in 1920. That was a year of famine. Soviet Russia was warding off the blows of its enemies. Cleared snow lay piled in the streets, street cars were not running and the street lamps were unlit. On Sverdlov Square a lone sign gleamed like a beacon, as in other countries advertisements of automobiles, perfumes or liqueurs gleam. Six words



A Cossack fighter from the Kuban

etched in the black sky of shivering Moscow: "Children are the blossoms of life." It was with these children that our Republic began its career.

Many years later I happened to visit a rural creche. An old woman who looked after the little ones said, "Ah! The children are having their afternoon

nap . . ." They were cherished like princelings. The Germans threw them alive into graves. Thus life collided with death, Soviet humanism with misanthropy.

They say this is not the time to think of the value of man, when a terrible and ruthless war is being waged. But our soldiers are not automatons. They know why they are facing death. We are saving man—his past and future, his dignity, his right to be his own individual, complex and great self—from the fascists.

In the diary of a German officer I read the following words: "It seems to me that people who have never suffered from headache don't know what it means. When people talk of love in my presence I am just a blank space. Not only do I not love anyone, but the sentiment of affection for a woman or friend, and all the more for children, seems to me offensive . . ."

I don't know whether that German killed children or not, but he is quite capable of throwing a child into a well without a qualm. Internally he is a gaping vacuum. And it is creatures like that which fell upon our country. They fell upon other countries, too. They have caused so much misery it seems that all the rivers of Europe—our beautiful Volga, the Seine, the Moldau and the Danube—have been turned to salt with the tears of mothers.

Death to the Fascists!

Who, then, are the humanists? Those who try to save the butchers, or our soldiers who have sworn an oath: "Death to the fascists!" I know that our tankmen who are crushing child murderers in the Ukraine, our snipers who keep count of the Germans they kill as people used to keep count of their good deeds, our infantrymen who are pressing westward in irresistible fury, are not only defending our land, but also the loftiest values of humanity. They have the blessing of all the mothers of the world. And all thinkers, all artists, all creators, look upon them as the champions of true humanism.

And if today a woman looks upon her newborn child, and if a girl in the happiness of first love murmurs the name of her sweetheart, if the seed sprouts into a shoot which a hundred years hence will have grown into a broad-branched tree, if somewhere at a school desk sits one Shakespeare or Tolstoy, it is only because the Red Army is vanquishing death, trampling down fascism and killing the fascist misanthropes.

The blood on the bayonet of our soldier is the dawn of happiness. It is the salvation of mankind.

Red Army Liberating Moldavian Soviet Republic

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes:

The past few days have been marked by most important developments in the south, developments of enormous military and political significance for the progress of the struggle for the defeat of Hitlerite Germany and her vassals. The troops of the Second Ukrainian Front swiftly forced the Dniester and are successfully expanding the bridgeheads established on the right bank of the river. The scene of battle has shifted to the fields of Soviet Moldavia.

Pointing out that the Red Army has brilliantly coped with the main difficulty of the offensive, represented by the German defense lines along the large rivers, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA continues:

By emerging on the banks of the Dniester, the Red Army has made another stride toward the complete defeat of the German invaders. The Germans have lost the battle for the south. This becomes clearer with every hour.

IZVESTIA comments further:

On March 19, having forced the Dniester, the Red Army began the liberation of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic from the German and Rumanian invaders. About four years ago the dream of the Moldavian people was realized: the Moldavian population of Bessarabia was reunited with their own people of the Moldavian Autonomous Socialist Republic. A Union Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic was formed, which marched rapidly toward prosperity.

But the German and Rumanian invaders who overran Moldavia in 1941 devastated the country and flooded it with the blood of hundreds of thousands of Soviet people. The mad plan of forever enslaving the Moldavian people was conceived by Hitler's Rumanian underlings. Before them hovered the

mirage of a "greater Rumania," built on the bones and blood of the Moldavian and Ukrainian peoples. The warriors of Hitler's hireling Antonescu skipped along after the German tanks, bargaining in Hitler's headquarters for towns and regions, and fancying themselves the real "masters" of the expanses of the Black Sea Coast.

In temporarily captured Moldavia, in Odessa, in the "Trans-Dniester Region," the Rumanians demonstrated their "bravery" in battles against women and children, in pogroms and murders. They stole everything of value they found in Moldavia. Only last autumn the Rumanian marauders forcibly took from the Moldavian peasants all the grain, 14,000 head of cattle and 25,000 horses.

The Moldavian people did not bow their heads before the Hitlerite enslavers in German and Rumanian uniforms. Moldavian guerrillas pursued and exterminated the fascist invaders. According to far from complete data, within five months the guerrilla detachments in Moldavia wiped out about 1,500 enemy officers and men, derailed 271 German and Rumanian military trains and blew up 28 bridges. Faith in the fraternal assistance of the Soviet people, in the strength of the Soviet State, in the victorious arms of the Red Army, supported and inspired the people. They awaited the Red Army.

And finally the Red Army crossed the Dniester and set foot upon Moldavian soil—the long awaited liberator-Army. It is carrying life and revival to the Moldavian people. It is carrying retribution to the enslavers for the bloody tortures, the sufferings and tears, of the Soviet people of Moldavia. In this auspicious hour of remarkable victory over the Hitlerite armies throughout the Soviet south, the dawn of liberation for the Moldavian Soviet Republic is near.

DNIESTER CROSSED AT MANY POINTS

The forcing of the Dniester on a wide front and seizure of bridgeheads on its right bank will go down in the history of the Patriotic War as a fine example of the fighting skill of Soviet troops. Rushing toward the Dniester our vanguard mobile detachments literally swept away the obstacles set up by the enemy on the road to Yampol. After capturing that town, the advancing troops followed hot on the enemy's heels, forced the right bank of the Dniester and captured several inhabited localities and tracts of forest. Directly after them our tanks started crossing the river.

An enemy park of pontoons for heavy equipment

was found in Yampol and our tankists immediately availed themselves of it. Many tanks had already reached the right bank when the order was given to resume the offensive. Smashing German anti-tank guns, our tanks forged ahead and by the close of the first day captured the highway leading from the town of Soroki to the west. Thus Soroki was turned and the engagement for it was brief. An attack launched by tanks from several directions sealed the outcome of the operation. A Rumanian regiment was utterly routed here, only a few isolated men escaping with their lives.

(Continued on page eight)

Winter Warfare on the Central Front

**the commander of a ski detach-
ment outlines an operation to
his men**



**anti-tank gun crew changes its
position during the night**



**less Red Army skiers on a
night march**



After Death

By Boris Gorbachev

Lieutenant Voganov's life may be told in four words: childhood, school, military school. But about his death volumes deserve to be written and epics composed. It sometimes happens that in the longest life there are altogether only three hours which are worth an entire lifetime. With Voganov these were his last three hours.

In these hours it was given to him to rise to heights of superhuman bravery, where there is no longer life, or death, or the bounds of centuries—where there are only eternity and immortality. During those hours Fedor Voganov's life burned away. But the German tanks did not pass.

The entire regiment turned out to meet Voganov's battery when it came back from the forward position. The entire regiment gazed with respect and awe at these people and at these guns, as if they were see-



A Soviet heavy gun shelling enemy positions

ing them for the first time. From that moment on, these men belonged to song and story; these half-charred guns belonged to museums and history. But the artillerymen themselves knew nothing of this. Gloomily and in silence they walked behind the gun-carriage on which the body of their commander lay.

Fedor Voganov was buried under a poplar, just outside the village. The last words of farewell were uttered. The sound of the last gun salute died away. The clerk struck the name of Lieutenant Voganov from the rolls, and the regiment returned to its regular life of battle.

* * *

But of an evening, in all batteries, in all the dug-outs, in the messroom, at the field dressing station,

there was only one subject of conversation—the heroic feat and death of Voganov. Eye-witnesses were showered with questions, and everyone tried to recall things themselves.

And those who had never seen Voganov alive were most vexed with themselves: "Just imagine! Such a man lived among us, and I let the chance slip. . . ." And those who had known Voganov tried to recall their every meeting with him, his every word, whether it had anything to do with the matter or not, his habits—"He liked racing," one dispatch rider said. "He would give anything he had for a plate of buckwheat!" recalled the cook.

And although many of these remembrances explained neither his valor nor the grandeur of the hero, nevertheless the men continued their eager reminiscing, as if they wanted to gather up even the tiniest splinters in order to put together a collective portrait of the dead man to imprint on their memory, so that later, when they were old and gray, they would be able to tell their children and their grandchildren about him.

* * *

Thus it was that Fedor Voganov, the hero of the regiment, was reborn and began to live a new life. He was, perhaps, not exactly the curly-headed lad he had been in life, but such as a hero should be in the opinion of his regiment.

Later someone found a snapshot and showed it to his comrades. And everyone saw on the picture a smart young commander with eyes wide open to life. They had never seen him so spruce in the regiment. Then the secretary of the Party bureau showed them Voganov's Party membership card. The little photograph was stained with blood, and this blood had caked right on his forehead and temples. And everyone said that this picture was just like him.

Dorokhov, one of the scouts, looked at the picture for a long time and then asked the secretary to let him have it overnight. All night long he labored over a large portrait of Voganov and in the morning he showed it to his comrades. And everyone said that the portrait was a good likeness. Someone did say that the nose was not the same. Voganov had been snub-nosed. But the scout retorted heatedly:

"The man lived handsomely and died handsomely, and you want an ugly nose. No! Let him be handsome in all things!"

The portrait was reproduced in the divisional newspaper and everyone who saw it said to himself: "The living image!" and kept the issue as a souvenir.

Voganov had left few effects behind, but he had left his revolver, a regulation model such as all of them had. And although it did not have a silver mounting or even any distinguishing marks, although it was most likely no better than the others, all the commanders suddenly burned with an ardent desire to own and keep it forever, just as if it were some talisman of glory.

"What's the matter with you, haven't you your own revolver?" asked the Lieutenant Colonel angrily. He had been showered with requests for the revolver. But he said that in all justice the Voganov revolver should be given to the commander whose battery made the best showing. And then a regular competition began in the regiment, with the revolver that Voganov had used to repulse the last attack of the Germans as a prize.

* * *

The battery that Voganov had once commanded was reinforced. New people, who had never seen Voganov, entered it. But from the very first day they called themselves "Voganovites," because that was what everyone in the battery called themselves. Nor was the new commander in any way offended. He was even a little proud, as if the immortal glory of the former commander reflected on him too. Yes, he was proud that he was in command of the Voganov battery, of the Voganov battery that everyone knew.

Then reporters began to come flocking, eager for whatever the men could tell them about Voganov, collecting the smallest details of what so recently—one early spring morning—had been in the ordinary course of things, but had already become a thing of story. And throughout the country, news of Fedor Voganov spread, of his brief life, which could be told in four words, and of his death—about which volumes must be written and epics composed.

* * *

The news reached the remote Siberian village where Fedor Voganov was born. His mother read the article telling of the Lieutenant's heroic feat; but the whole long article that spoke much of valor and heroism told her only one thing: Fedyushka was dead. And she burst into tears. She fell into the arms of her neighbor, crying long and heartbrokenly in her warm embrace. Nor did the neighbor try to console her. She simply said:

"Cry your fill, Stepanovna. You should weep, but you should be proud, too!"

And in the village school the old teacher suddenly broke off the lesson and in a voice trembling with emotion said:

"Children! It was at this desk that Fedor Voganov, that immortal hero . . . a curly-headed lad . . . once sat."

And all the children looked around at the desk where Vanyushka Gladkikh and Petya Kostikov now sat, swelling and flushing with pride. And all the time the teacher kept his eyes fixed on the desk, nor was he able to utter another word.

And then at a meeting of collective farmers, it was decided to rename the collective farm, the village, and the entire district after Fedor Voganov, and to erect a monument in his memory on the village green. Soon after, a young sculptor came from the city and asked Voganov's old mother for photographs of her son. She collected all that she had—including one showing Fedyushka as a curly-headed schoolboy and the one where he was a smart young commander—but none of these satisfied the sculptor.

He had not come to erect a monument to a mere boy, but to a stern warrior! And he made a monument such as he dreamed of: Fedor's eyes remained, open wide to life, and the curly hair, and the forehead, but it was an adult and grim warrior, just as if Fedor Voganov had continued to live, to grow and mature even after death.

I should like to see that monument. I envy Voganov. How much longer have I got to live? Perhaps an hour, perhaps a month, a year, thirty years. . . . But Fedor Voganov will live forever. He will stand for all time on that green in his native village, ever handsome and young. And future generations will recall his brief life and heroic death, and tell their descendants about him. That is immortality.

Tchaikovsky Museum in Kamenka Ravaged by Germans

Several years ago a museum dedicated to the great Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky was opened in Kamenka, in the Kirovograd Region. A memorial tablet on the facade read: *Composer Peter Tchaikovsky visited this country house of the Davidovs and lived in it with his sister from 1865 to 1893.*

The first day the Hitlerites were in Kamenka they converted the museum into a hang-out for their officers. All the exhibits and books were used for kindling fires. The furnishings, including Davidov's piano, on which the great composer had played, were shipped to Germany. Valuable sculptures and portraits served as targets for the drunken Hitlerite officers. Tchaikovsky's monument was demolished and everything associated with the name of Tchaikovsky destroyed.

As soon as the Red Army liberated Kamenka, local organizations began the restoration of the museum and the Tchaikovsky monument.

A New Oil Town in the Forest

By Eugene Permyak

This region of the Western Urals was formerly an endless virgin forest stretching as far as the Viatka River. The settlements were islets, few and far between in the green ocean of fir and spruce. As a boy I used to play on the banks of the Viatka, hunting mushrooms and berries and "prospecting" for oil. Oil was mentioned in legends, rumor spoke of it, oil proclaimed its presence in queer iridescent patches in bog, river and lake. But no one had ever struck oil here.

Years passed—25, at least. The oil had been found! I was returning to the banks of the Viatka, and although I had had nothing whatever to do with the new discovery of oil, my heart fluttered and beat as if in this discovery lay the whole meaning and purpose of my life.

* * *

A new town had sprung up here. Krasnokamsk—a town with a character all its own, with all the charm of the new and the follies inevitable in the search for something better. Here, alongside the big stone apartment houses built in the European style, the compact snug little cottages of technicians and the sturdy communal houses, were "airplane" houses—reproducing the form of a plane. The main body of the house is the "fuselage," the wings of the house correspond to airplane wings, and the tail assembly is formed by the outbuildings.

In Krasnokamsk these houses are called simply "No. 1 Airplane," and so on. Except that they strike one as being slightly absurd, they make perfectly comfortable dwellings. All the houses are placed at an angle to the road, a sensible measure calculated to admit as much sun as possible. For the rest, Krasnokamsk is a perfectly good, normal sort of town, situated in coniferous woods. It has an opera house, Town Soviet, traffic rules, newspapers, bank, cinemas, libraries and schools.

What especially distinguishes it from other Urals towns is the presence of oil derricks in the streets. They are everywhere: at crossings, in the squares, at the entrance to a large apartment house and even in yards and gardens. You may well ask what is the reason for this curious invasion of a town by oil derricks. I must refer you to a bit of history that is not without its amusing side.

Shortly after Krasnokamsk was transferred from a blueprint to solid earth, the paper mills around which and for which it was designed were completed. It was decided that more water was needed. So the people started out to dig what was expected to be

an artesian well. After digging some time, instead of water they struck oil.

They were somewhat abashed by this unexpected discovery. Perhaps, they thought, the oil might upset the geologists, who had planned the construction of a giant paper-making plant here without having sufficiently explored the site. Anxiety led them to dig deeper, and after passing the oil strata they hit upon another surprise—sulphur springs! They did not dare to go deeper. The earth was too full of embarrassing surprises. Moreover, the oil pent up for a million years or so, since the formation of the earth's crust, was now spouting in good earnest.

The oil was destined to live alongside the paper. Paper-makers and oilmen are now the chief workers of Krasnokamsk. Oil is pumped from a depth of over half a mile; the pumps work day and night, never stopping for a moment. It gives me great satisfaction to be among these "praying nun" pumps and to bow down with them to the familiar, generous earth, to take a smear of the dark, coffee-colored ooze and sniff its volatile substance.

Under the Urals the earth hides treasures so richly varied no one knows what may be found there next. You cannot explore everything at once: the Urals are too vast.

DNIESTER CROSSINGS

(Continued from page four)

After capturing Soroki, Soviet troops continued the struggle for the expansion of the bridgehead. They cleared the enemy from several more inhabited localities and tactically advantageous heights. On the following day the Dniester was forced in two more sectors. Soon the three bridgeheads merged into one.

The struggle for the expansion of the bridgehead continues in the face of fierce enemy resistance. The Germans are intensifying their air activity, with bombers attacking our crossings. Soviet troops are crossing the Dniester in many sectors. Artillery was brought up comparatively rapidly, the transportation of ammunition was well-organized, and assault bridges have been laid along which the infantry is able to get across without delay. All enemy efforts to fling our troops back into the river have ended in failure. Operating methodically and persistently, Soviet troops continue to occupy more and more inhabited localities on the territory of Bessarabia.

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THE SPRING OFFENSIVE

By B. Talin

Fine weather reigns in the Ukraine west of the Dnieper. The murmur of spring mingles with the formidable onward march of Soviet Armies. We see the spring of 1944—the third spring of the war—in the image of a Red Army man with weather-beaten and sweat-covered face, striding through the Ukraine in a mud-splashed overcoat.

This third spring is a spring of break-throughs, as advancing Soviet troops batter down the German defenses, strike lightning blows at the enemy forces and paralyze their will. The men of the Red Army have brought inspiration, audacity and persistence to this spring offensive, and their hard and weary days are illumined by bright feats of valor.

If the men and officers of the Division which broke through two lines of German fortifications, forced a river 500 meters wide and struck at Vinnitsa from the east, were to look back on the road they traversed in these March days, their hearts would be filled with legitimate pride. Mile after mile, on the operational map, the route of their advance was charted—form-

ing a graceful and elegant pattern which enabled us to follow the boldly conceived plan and skilfully executed maneuver.

But the advance map is powerless to convey the chief factors concealed behind each of these miles—the stubbornness of our soldier, the mighty effort, the toil and sweat. In those days, when everything was mired deep in mud, the soldiers tucked the skirts of their overcoats into their belts and pulled the guns out by sheer muscle power, thinking not of themselves but only of the success of the battle. The war against the washed-out roads, the overflowing lakes and rivers was as stubborn as that against the Germans.

The tremendous effort required to overcome the lack of roads was repaid a hundredfold. The maneuver brought splendid results. Caught by surprise, the Germans discarded their arms and equipment on the battlefield. Our plan for the blow at Vinnitsa, a break-through on a sector 18 kilometers wide, was fully carried out.



A long-range bomber commanded by Senior Guards Lieutenant D. Barashev, Hero of the Soviet Union, is preparing for a flight. In the foreground are the bombs, still in their cases

The task confronting the Soviet Command was to strike a crushing blow at the correct moment and at the most advantageous point. The commanding General, as well as his subordinates, prayed for fine weather, but meteorological reports were not promising. Roads and fields were in the grip of the spring thaw. To wait until they dried out was risky; other and more advantageous factors in the offensive might be missed.

So the offensive began. The Division smashed through the German defenses and reached the river, swollen and seething with the spring floods. On its western bank were the German emplacements. The enemy had rushed an artillery regiment into the breach in an attempt to crush the offensive with the weight of its fire, but the precipitous advance of Soviet troops defeated this calculation. The Red Army men entered the cold spring water and fought against the current, helping one another up the opposite bank. They then executed a masterly maneuver and hurled themselves upon the German firing positions from the rear.

"Where did you come from?" the German prisoners asked in amazement. "We thought you were miles away and were continuing our fire at that point."

And sure enough, the sights of the heavy German guns were set to cover the distant lines which Soviet troops had left long before. In their sudden descent upon the enemy's firing positions, our men captured

many of his guns. By the end of the day the German artillery regiment no longer existed.

Why were the Germans surprised? Why were their guns caught in such an unenviable position? They explain it by saying that communications between their batteries were frequently cut and the central direction disrupted. It was the swift and audacious maneuver of Soviet troops that disorganized the communications and disrupted the direction of the German troops.

The weather continued unfavorable for an advance; roads disappeared completely and it was impossible to move except on foot. But Soviet troops vanquished the spring mud—and vanquished the Germans. The swiftness and vigor of our maneuver threw the enemy into dismay and confusion.

A certain railway point had long been in the hands of our advance detachments, but German trains loaded with ammunition and food continued to roll up to its platforms and sidings. Four such trains were received in one day by the Commander of the 10th Division, and he was grateful for them, too; the spring thaw had been interfering with his supplies, and the German shells, mines, food and fodder came in handy.

The General soon received reports that part of his forces had seized a brickyard in Vinnitsa. A frontal assault on the city followed, with an outflanking maneuver which decided the issue and ended with Vinnitsa falling to the Red Army.

Germans Fought Desperately for Pervomaisk

The town of Pervomaisk, situated at an abrupt bend of the middle stream of the Yuzhnyi Bug at its confluence with the rapid and deep little Sinyukha River, was a powerful strongpoint of German defense. The invaders, who had divided the territory of the USSR among themselves beforehand, drew the demarcation line of their interests along the Bug River. Germany took the Ukraine east of the Bug, while the territory west of that river was given to the Rumanian boyars to plunder.

Soviet people who escaped from the columns being driven to Germany state that German and Rumanian frontier outposts were placed on the Bug in Pervomaisk and that a kind of frontier service to check documents was established there. The Rumanians were not permitted to pass to the German side and those who crossed the bridges without permits were flogged in the German guardhouses. In their turn the Rumanians sniped at the Germans who crossed to the Rumanian side.

These details from the life of the Hitlerite coalition show that relations between the brothers in

banditry have become very tense. In recent months, in connection with the Red Army offensive, both Germans and Rumanians were feverishly fortifying the right and left banks of the Bug. The German command, which selected Pervomaisk as a place of concentration and for headquarters, strove to convert this town into its southern fortress. This was facilitated by the hill range which girdles the town with a natural wall, and by the small Sinyukha River, which separated our advancing troops into two sections. The Germans erected a ramified system of field defenses on the northwestern slopes of the hills. The Rumanians fortified the entire right bank of the Bug and built especially strong defenses in a sector of the southern suburbs of Pervomaisk—namely, in the Golta suburb and the Grushevka settlement.

During the past few days, when the German divisions defeated by the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front were retreating to the south after abandoning their armament, the German army command attempted to halt their retreat at Pervomaisk. Here

(Continued on page eight)

THE FATE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The following article appeared in Number Six of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

In America much is being written about the future. We have no time for debates and projects: we are fighting. But at times we too stop to think what the world will look like after victory. Of course, this same question is exercising the minds of people under the roofs of Paris and in the mountains of Yugoslavia. Tormented Europe is trying to discern the vague contour of the new day.

However the paths of nations may vary, there is one thing that unites all honest people—hatred of fascism. As they glance back on the cemetery of the First World War, on the 20 years of fragile peace which to some was an uneasy dream and to others a feverish preparation for aggression, on ultimatums, on mustard gas and on the ruins of Guernica, people ask themselves: will the storm clear the world from the miasmas of fascism?

In these days the fate of future generations is being decided. Will the second half of the 20th Century be an era of ripening wheat ears or an era of scorched earth?

In 1916 I was in the city of Arras. It had been destroyed by German artillery. It was an ancient city with splendid architectural monuments. After the war the French began to rebuild it. Of course, they could not recreate the perished antiquities. A new city sprang up. It was completed on the very eve of the war. In 1940 I saw the ruins of the new Arras. And now not only the French, but the whole world, is thinking with alarm whether the same fate awaits a third Arras.

On the right bank of the Dnieper I picked up a bundle of German letters. One of them seemed to me interesting. This is what Lieutenant Robert Greiser wrote his friend: "When I feel gloomy, I cheer myself with thoughts of the future. One often hears various opinions as to the reasons for our reverses: with some it all amounts to criticism of the war operations, others put it down to blunders in timing. At any rate, the German people demonstrated their power. There is no need for despair. If we are fated to perish, our children will accomplish what we dreamed about and 1965 will become the year of greater Germany."

So we see that the Germans are also thinking about the future. Foreseeing a military defeat they are dreaming of preparations for new wars of conquest. They are now relying not so much upon their "secret weapon" as upon the soft-heartedness of their adversaries.

Upon the vigilance, staunchness and moral strength

of the nations will depend the fate of a century, the fate of the wheat ear, the fate of our children, the fate of Europe. It is not enough to wrest the weapon from the hands of fascism. It will forge another. Fascism itself must be extirpated.

All around us we see ruins, ashes, ditches filled with the corpses of slaughtered children, the tears of mothers. The captive nations of Europe see the same thing. An American journalist said to me, "We don't like to read about German atrocities." Nobody does, although it is easier to read about them than to see them with one's own eyes. However, even Americans have ceased to doubt the atrocities perpetrated by Hitler's army. It only remains for us to reflect how it is that peaceful store clerks, sausage-makers and brewers could become hangmen and thugs, why they bury children alive and why they are proud of their "gas vans."

It is not a matter of German blood: the blood of Germans is like that of all mortals. It is a matter of the formation of society and of the individual. The Germany of the Hohenzollerns was infected with the same ideas, which later found their consummation in fascism. Even in those days the Germans declared they were superior to other nations, and in those days too they asserted that the Slavs must serve as manure for the Germans.

The phrase "a scrap of paper," pronounced over outraged Belgium, sounds as a prelude to the many "historical" and hysterical utterances of the Fuehrer. "Gallows are good for Russians," the Kaiser's generals used to say, forecasting the labors of Koch and Lose. In 1893, that is, 40 years before Hitler's accession to power, a German professor named Karl Jentch published a book called *Neither Communism Nor Capitalism*, in which he proposed to solve the social problem by the conquest and colonization of Russia.

In 1916, together with French regiments I entered Chauny, which had been abandoned by the Germans the day before. Chauny was famous for its pears. The fruit orchards seemed undamaged, but on closer scrutiny I found that all the trees had been cut through with saws. Twenty-seven years later in the Ukrainian city of Glukhov I saw apple trees which had been cut down by the retreating Germans. The same ideas and the same actions. The Germany of the Kaiser, of Hindenburg and Ludendorff was the model for the fascist state.

Fascism invented the "race theory" as a justification for brigandage. It established a "hierarchy of nations,"—some nations are created to be masters and others to be slaves, it declares. Even before Hitler Germany was inclined toward self-deification, Mussolini assured his oft-defeated blackshirts that

they were the heirs of Julius Caesar and were therefore entitled to Corsica, Tunis, Malta, Abyssinia and Athens.

Superstitious to the core, the fascists decided to find their own Beelzebub. They made anti-Semitism a mystic religion of the state. They engineered the wholesale massacres of Jews. On orders from Berlin, General Franco also started to propagate anti-Semitism. There are no Jews in Spain, and the Castilian peasants reading the articles of the Falangist disciples of Streicher asked, "Why do they write so much about people that lived many thousands of years ago?"

The fascists hate progress and they furnished their prejudice with pseudo-scientific terminology. They have even invented "Aryan physics" and "Aryan trigonometry." All moral standards have been abolished in fascist society. The fascist "superman" despises love, brotherhood, kindness and compassion. German writers are fond of quoting Nietzsche, but theirs is the Nietzscheanism of Smerdyakov, who firmly believes that "everything is permissible." It is not surprising that one of the saints of Hitlerism is the pimp Horst Wessel, that the SA detachments originated in the saloons of Alexanderplatz which have long been favorite haunts of the criminal world, or that the Hitlerites employ gangster methods in every field, whether it be diplomacy, jurisprudence or economics.

An attentive observer might have discovered microbes of fascism long before Hitler came to power. I have already said that German militarism was one of the forerunners of fascism. There was a time when the good French bourgeoisie laughed heartily when they read of blackshirts forcing castor oil down the throats of Italian workers. These bourgeoisie did not suspect that the raids on the Italian people's halls would end in a raid on French Savoy. Let us recall the raids of the ruffians recruited by the megalomaniac D'Annunzio on Slav cities. Let us recall the cry of the Polish magnates, "A Poland from sea to sea!" That was in the days when only the friends of the future Duce knew anything about fascism and when Hitler was still a petty spy.

We are interested in the origin of fascism not only because we are fond of history, but also because we do not want the blackout years to be repeated. Fascism had its forerunners, but it must not have its successors. You have only to put a semi-fascist in place of a fascist, and five or 10 years hence the real fascist will replace his surrogate and deputy.

In the foreign press we sometimes find von Papen and Schacht mentioned as men who are supposedly capable of removing Hitler. We are familiar with these "successors," representatives of the Prussian Junkers and Ruhr industrialists. It was they who cleared the way for Hitler.

Recently two 10th anniversaries were "celebrated."

On February 6, 1934 the fascists staged a revolt in Paris; six days later the Austrian reactionaries began shelling the workers' houses in Vienna. The forerunners of fascism were shamefaced: in Paris they advanced as their justification the decay of morals and the Masons; in Vienna, municipal scandals and Marxism. It was then that the fate of France and Austria was determined. Dolfuss, without realizing it himself, opened the gates of blood-drenched Austria to Hitler. The French fascists when they stormed the House of Deputies paved the way for the black day when the swastika flag waved over that building.

Certain truths take a long time to penetrate the minds of distant observers. The attack of the Italian and German aggressors upon Republican Spain was looked upon by many democrats as Spain's internal affair. Nobody discerned in the little Spanish general the big traitor, forerunner of the quislings and Laval. On the contrary, there were democrats who, fooled by fascist propaganda, were inclined to prefer the general to the Deputies of the Cortes.

When the World War broke out Franco began to carry out the behests of his masters. However, to this day the British and Americans have spared the Iberian gauleiter. The peculiar idea was fostered that Franco is not the Falange and the Falange is not fascism. The general took note and continued his work for Hitler, of course. And now we have the United States Attorney General Biddle finding that the Falange is the prototype of the Italian fascist party and the German National Socialist party.

The fascists have a penchant for pseudonyms, such as Doriot's "people's" party, the "Rexist" and the Slovak "Guardists." Some of the fascists deny their fascist nature and even come out with hypocritical condemnations of fascism. We learn to know the fascists not by their labels but by their proclivities. Arrant foes of progress, the fascists of all countries are the natural friends of Hitler Germany and the natural foes of the Soviet Union.

Attorney General Biddle, enumerating the motives which led him to class the Falangists as fascists, recalled that the Falangists advanced the slogan of "pan-Hispanism" and called for a fight for a "greater Spain." That does not surprise us, for are we not familiar with "greater Rumania," stretching as far as the Volga, and "greater Finland," stretching to the Urals? Of course, Americans are more alive to the plans of conquest directed against Latin America; but when talking of Cuba one should not forget the Kuban, where not so long ago the Rumanians were rampant.

One would think that the Poles, who were the first bloody victims of Hitler, would curse the time when they were possessed by the fascist idea of a "greater Poland," the period from the raid on Vilna to the rape of Teschen. However, there are Poles whose

dream it is, once they've shaken off the German conquerors, to become Polish conquerors themselves.

The fascists of all countries look upon Hitler as their bulwark and savior. For the sake of the Fuehrer, French or Croatian fascists betray their country. The prewar fascists and semi-fascists of Europe could not keep their eyes off the Fuehrer and the Duce: they dreamed of a blacked-out Europe. In the days of Munich the Frenchman Marcel Deat (he called himself a neo-socialist then), attacked Czechoslovakia and hailed the deal between Poland and Germany. But no sooner did Hitler fall upon Poland than Marcel Deat cooled toward Warsaw. Who was this French neo-socialist championing? Hitler Germany. Many, when discussing the reasons for France's defeat, forget the role played by the French fascists and semi-fascists who in 1939 were far more afraid of the victory of France than her defeat.

Unfortunately there was not a new Zola in prewar Europe to paint a portrait of the rank and file. We recall the young men who marched through the streets of European capitals. They adored uniforms: black shirts, brown shirts, blue shirts and green shirts. They inaugurated their public activities by beating up passersby and by pogroms. They never read anything but the wretched fascist sheets and they were proud of their ignorance. At times of spiritual strain they went to see detective films or attended a boxing match. They boasted of their biceps and their lack of conscience. They shouted all sorts of slogans without even stopping to think of their meaning. The Belgian fascists, for example, cried "Rex will win," but very few of them knew that Rex was Latin for King, and none of them knew which king was meant. At the time of the Italian attack on Abyssinia, the French fascists howled "Down with sanctions!" And again it would have been vain to ask them what sanctions they were talking about or what interest the French had in the annexation of Ethiopia to Italy. The Italian fascists, including children of pre-school age, used to roar, "The Mediterranean is ours!" The Spanish fascists recognized one another by the cry, "Up with Spain!" All fascists considered it their sacred duty to vociferate, "Down with Democracy," "Kill the Jews," "Death to the Bolsheviks!" It was a preparatory school for the "burgomasters" and hangmen of the "new order." From this school came the marauders of "The Blue Division," Hauptsturmfuehrer Leon Degrell and all of Hitler's other *landsknechts*.

A writer on life and manners might also have painted a portrait of the prewar semi-fascist. He was the type who did not take part in street disorders and did not shout at demonstrations until he was hoarse. The semi-fascist prided himself on being an educated man, even a man of thought. His view of the fascists was: "Those young fellows sometimes go too far, but they are sincere. They love their country. And they hate democrats, Masons, free-

thinkers, workers, Jews, Bolsheviks and other foes of order." The semi-fascist stayed at home, but donated money for bludgeons and leaflets, for bombs and pogroms. The semi-fascist imagined he was the fireman and the fascists the pump and water. Actually the fascists were the incendiaries and the semi-fascist nothing but the fuel can.

It is opportune to recall this now, when the Red Army is smashing Hitler's divisions, when the armies of the Allies will soon be landing in Europe, when nations are already beginning to decry the dawn of victory. We all know how easily microbes spread. Epidemics do not recognize frontiers. Fascism in any one country is not only a menace to the citizens of the infected country; it is also a menace to the neighboring nations and mankind generally. There is plenty of room on this earth for all sorts of languages and all sorts of beliefs, but the peaceable and free man cannot live in harmony with fascism. Legalization of fascism, whether frank or camouflaged, means legalization of crime.

We find fascists and semi-fascists trying to interfere with the noble efforts of the Allied nations. Is it not amazing that a certain English politician named Mr. Knox could publicly refer to the nation which by shedding its blood had helped this same Mr. Knox to escape from a German concentration camp, as a "pernicious aggressor?" Do not the activities of Mr. McGovern, who in London champions Hitler's allies against Britain's allies, seem sinister and fantastic? Is it not an astonishing thing that articles are printed in the *New York Daily News*, in numerous Hearst newspapers and in certain English weeklies, condemning Russia and lamenting over the poor Hitlerite orphans?

Everything about the Russians arouses the ire of these gentry. When the Red Army was retreating they cried, "There is no sense in helping the doomed." Now that the Red Army is in Estonia and Tarnopol, they cry, "This is a threat to Europe!" When the Kremlin chimes played the *Internationale* these newspapers talked about "dangerous internationalists." When they heard our new national anthem, they howled "dangerous nationalists." In December they were outraged by "Soviet centralization"; in January they took up the cudgels against "Soviet decentralization." They write, "We will not recognize any annexations," and at once go on to declare that Vilna, which was annexed by the Poles, and Kishinev, annexed by the Rumanians, belong to the annexors. What can these declarations of love for the fascists and this calumny of the Soviet Union mean? Only that microbes need no visas nor steamships nor clipppers.

The Russian soldiers, the British seamen, the American airmen and the Yugoslav and French guerrillas who died fighting fascism cannot take part in discussions about the future. They died believing



Children who were evacuated from Leningrad helped the collective farmers with the harvest

they were sacrificing their lives to rid the earth of a terrible evil. Will the living dare betray the fallen heroes?

We have seen what was the attitude of the French people toward the attempt to replace fascists with semi-fascists. When Pucheu, Peyrouton and other traitors tried to pose as honest Frenchmen, and even as democrats, the voice of indignant France rose from the depths of the underground. The semi-fascists came to get ministerial portfolios. But they found prison bars awaiting them. The masquerade in Algiers did not last long. The masks were removed, not at the invitation of the master of ceremonies, but at the demand of the uninvited guest and true master, the French people.

But in Italy the grand masquerade is still continuing. The heroism of Marshal Tito's Army opened the eyes even of those who worshipped blindness as supreme wisdom. But the covert fascists of Greece and Poland still call themselves anti-fascists. At times it seems that it is easier to smash German

divisions than to clear the minds of certain observers of fascist lies. But time is pressing; Europe has suffered too much to permit amnesty being granted to hangmen, jailors, traitors and marauders.

We know that if the Germans are now preparing for 1965 they have already prepared themselves for the nearer date of Hitler's defeat. The magnates of the Ruhr and generals of the Reichswehr will attempt, by throwing Hitler overboard, to save the fascist state, which for the time being will pose as semi-fascist. The ersatz experts have already made preparations for an ersatz purge.

When I gaze at a child, a tiny sapling or a clump of earth I ask myself: can it be that we who have lived through two terrible wars and have learned to know the utter inhumanity of fascism will not save our children from a similar fate? In this war our Army and our people have displayed the maturity of courage and moral strength. We shall win the war. We must also win the peace.

Moscow Children on a Collective Farm

By Eugenia Augustinovich

Everyone is familiar with the heroism of the Leningrad kindergarten and nursery workers, and the selflessness of the staffs of similar institutions in Moscow when the enemy was aiming his blow at the Capital in 1941.

It was at this time that thousands of Moscow children were evacuated far into the interior of the country. The Trekhgornaya textile mills sent 600 children of its employees to collective farms in the Chelyabinsk Region. These youngsters were accompanied by the staff of six of their kindergartens, among whom was Valentina Bers, Chairman of the Local Pre-School Committee and teacher in a factory kindergarten.

A relative of the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy, Valentina Bers inherited the best of that family's traditions. For 26 years she has been working as a teacher. More than one generation of workers' children has passed through her schools, and she is now teaching the children of former pupils. She receives a State pension, but still continues her work in education.

Speaking of the evacuation of the children, Valentina Bers told of the 23 days' journey to the town of Kataisk. "At the station," she said, "we found horses and sleds sent by the collective farmers to convey the children to their temporary homes. We wrapped our charges in warm blankets and got them to the collective farms, where food and beds awaited them. Our staff spared nothing to create as soon as possible the proper conditions of work and play for the little ones. Teachers became dressmakers, laundresses, fitters and wood-cutters.

"In the spring the collective farmers allotted us nine hectares of land, helped with the plowing and supplied us with seed. In return, our people in their leisure time helped the collective farmers in their fields and organized playgrounds for their children. We also arranged amateur concerts, lectures, talks and reports on topics of international interest. On holidays we put on plays, to which we invited the farmers and their families.

"There was competition among the cooks to make the children's diet as varied and pleasing as possible. We also challenged each other to make the best visual aids, toys and children's clothing. Everyone, from houseworkers to the medical staff, did everything possible to keep the children happy and healthy, and all of them subsequently returned to Moscow in good health and spirits.

"We have received many letters from the fathers of our little ones—now fighting at the front—thank-

ing us for our care of their children and for making it possible for the mothers to continue their work in the factories without anxiety.

"Now that the children are back in Moscow in their newly renovated homes, we are preparing to open two new kindergartens and a sanatorium at the textile mills."



In a Moscow kindergarten young Galya demonstrates her talents as a rope-walker

Discussions at Polar Stations

Staffs of remote Polar meteorological stations on the Arctic coasts and islands are discussing the debates and decisions of the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet with keen interest. Molotov's report on changes in the Constitution has already been printed and studied at some of the large stations.

New War Films

By Oleg Leonidov

Many distinguished workers in the Soviet cinema are engaged in the production of new war films in Moscow studios.

Director Raisman, producer of *Mashenka*, is now busy on "Moscow Skies" adapted from the play by George Mdivani, Georgian playwright, dealing with the heroic air defenders of Moscow.

Igor Savchenko, well-known Ukrainian director who produced the historical film *Bogdan Khmelnytsky*, is preparing a technicolor version of "Ivan Nikulin, Russian Sailor." The scenario is by Leonid Solovyev, a young Russian author who has been serving as an officer in the Red Navy since the outbreak of war. "Ivan Nikulin, Russian Sailor" tells the story of a sudden raid by enemy paratroopers on a Soviet train carrying sick and wounded, an actual incident in the Patriotic War.

Director Mikhail Romm, known for his productions *Lenin in October* and *Lenin in 1918*, is filming "Number 217," from the scenario by Eugene Gabrilovich, a portrayal of the sufferings of Russian girls driven into slavery in Germany.

Film-producer Mark Donskoy has begun work on "The Unvanquished," adapted from the novel by Boris Gorbатов, which describes the life of the Russian population in a Donbas town during the German occupation.

Sergei Gerasimov, who thrilled audiences with *The Invincible*, dedicated to the heroic defense of Leningrad, is filming his own scenario "The Mainland," portraying work and life in the Soviet rear during the war. The locale is a town in the Urals where major war plants evacuated from Leningrad, the Ukraine and Byelorussia are producing for the front.

Boris Babochkin, who will be remembered for his portrayal of *Chapayev*, makes his debut as a film producer in "The Bykovites," dedicated to the war-time activities of the Soviet collective farms. The scenario is by Mikhail Palavy.

A new comedy, "6 P. M.—After the War," is being produced by Ivan Pyrev, who won nation-wide recognition for his musical comedy films, *The Rich Bride*, *Tractor Drivers* and *The Swinemaid and the Shepherd*. During the war he produced *The People's Avengers*, which had great success in the USSR and abroad. "6 P. M.—After the War" is the time chosen for his next meeting with his sweetheart by a Red Army lieutenant leaving for the front. Victor Gusev, Soviet playwright and poet, wrote the scenario.

These films are among the major productions to be released by the Moscow studios this year. Other pictures are being filmed by the Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Ukrainian, Azerbaijani, Georgian and Uzbekistan studios, and new films for junior audiences are in production at the Soyuzdetfilm studios.

PERVOMAISK

(Continued from page two)

shock groups were formed from the defeated divisions, which were expected to stem the advance of our troops and wear them down on the line of the Bug. When our troops forced the Chernyi Tashlyk River, seized the Podgorodnaya railway junction and emerged at the approaches to Pervomaisk, they were met by a wall of fire. The Hitlerite command had ordered the troops to fight to the last round of ammunition, and had placed SS troopers with machine guns at their backs in a final effort to make a stand at the river.

The skirmishes of the vanguard detachments rapidly developed into fierce battles. The Germans fought vehemently. Our infantry and cavalry units countered the German stubbornness with speed and surprise. They sounded out the weak spots in the

German defense, split it into two parts, infiltrated the enemy rear, surrounded the German units and wiped them out. When the main fortifications at the approaches to Pervomaisk were pierced, the scene of action shifted to the outskirts of the town. After two days of stiff fighting Soviet troops captured Pervomaisk and hoisted the Red Banner over it.

Don and Dnieper River Traffic

Shipping has begun on the liberated Don River. Freighters recently left Rostov for Moscow, and passenger boats ply regularly between Rostov and other Don ports. The rivermen of the Dnieper are also busily preparing for the shipping season. Dozens of passenger boats, freighters, motor launches and barges have been repaired and port installations restored.

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Break-Through of German Defenses in Tarnopol-Proskurov Area

In the past several days our troops advanced a great distance despite stiff enemy resistance and captured a wide zone between the Tarnopol-Proskurov railway and the Dniester. On March 24 attacking troops crushed the enemy's resistance, broke through to the Dniester and after a brief engagement captured the town of Zaleshchiki, on the river. In addition our troops occupied the towns of Chertkov, Gusyatin and numerous other inhabited localities.

A *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondent emphasizes that the success of the offensive is due to the excellent interaction of all arms. By vigorous blows our troops crushed the defense of the Germans to a great depth,

intercepted their road of retreat and disrupted their communications with rear establishments and reserves. In the first few days the German defense was split into several isolated sectors. As a result our troops captured all enemy positions in the area of the Cherkov-Gusyatin railway, where the Hitlerites had built an especially strong defensive zone.

The great importance of the operations of our troops is evident from the fact that in Chertkov and Gusyatin the enemy was compelled to abandon a tremendous quantity of war equipment; for example, on the eve of the retreat from Gusyatin the Germans prepared to send away two big trains loaded with tanks. But the Hitlerites failed to accomplish this—the trains were captured intact.



Ski champions of the Red Army—A. Karpov, G. Mozhukhin, I. Bulochkin and D. Vasiliev

After our troops had dislodged the enemy from Gusyatin, he tried to entrench himself near another large inhabited locality on the bank of the Zbruch River. To relieve the troops retreating from Gusyatin the Germans hurled a reserve motorized regiment against our forces. The Soviet divisional commander detailed several units to intercept this motorized regiment, at the same time hurling his main forces into an outflanking movement. Within a short time the enemy motorized regiment was pressed to the Zbruch and found itself in a trap. The entire German regiment scattered, abandoning all its arms and motorized vehicles.

Our attacking troops made it their first task to capture the highways. After the taking of Gusyatin and Chertkov, Soviet troops repeatedly dealt heavy blows at the enemy on the main highroads. In one area scouts located a large concentration of German infantry and tanks. Our troops turned this area, cut the German roads of retreat and attacked the enemy simultaneously from several directions. The Germans were driven off the road and pressed to the river, where they were forced to abandon all their trucks and a large quantity of arms. In one small sector alone our troops seized about 800 trucks.

As a whole the offensive of the troops of the First Ukrainian Front represents an almost continuous series of such crushing blows. Every blow wipes out whole enemy regiments and deprives them of their arms, equipment and trucks. The Hitlerite losses are tremendous, and this in the main insured the swift advance of our troops toward the Dniester.

Having pierced the German defense and emerged on the Dniester, Soviet troops inflicted serious defeats on the fascists, capturing the town of Zaleshchiki, routing several German units and seizing a large quantity of war materiel.

A *Pravda* correspondent reports that the Germans are retreating so fast they do not even blow up bridges. German prisoners testify their officers told them the Russian offensive would start in the next few days. The Germans especially dreaded the Russian tanks. All German soldiers were promised new anti-tank weapons, and drills in anti-tank defense were conducted incessantly and even special anti-tank courses set up in the rear of every German unit. Court-martials were also held in all units and men were shot for cowardice in previous engagements. All troops were mobilized to dig an anti-tank ditch several dozen kilometers long. But all these measures designed to stiffen the resistance of the Germans failed. The offensive in the Proskurov-Tarnopol direction began with a powerful artillery preparation on a front of 20 kilometers, pulverizing the German defenses. When the fire was shifted to depth, only a few of the enemy's firing-pits came back

to life and these were promptly silenced by the re-shifting of our fire.

German prisoners testify to the effectiveness of Soviet fire. Company commander Lieutenant Meyer stated that the situation became clear to him when 60 men of his company of 80 were killed and four wounded in the first 10 minutes of pounding. After the artillery preparation, our infantry charged into the attack and quickly seized the first lines of German trenches. Tanks poured into the breach and played havoc with the German defense. After a 40-kilometer thrust, our tanks broke into Gusyatin straight from the march and captured it, cutting the road to Proskurov.

In other directions our units forged ahead as much as 100 kilometers into the depth of the enemy dispositions. The break-through is marked by the encirclement and annihilation of numerous units of the enemy. In one sector the Germans tried to deliver ammunition by air to one surrounded group. But every time the enemy transport planes appeared they were chased away by Soviet anti-aircraft fire and the ammunition dropped by parachute fell into our hands. When the commander of a German group issued an order to his men to blow up their heavy arms and force their way back, it was too late—the group was firmly trapped.

When the danger which overhung the German armies became clear to the Hitlerite command, tank divisions were sent to Proskurov to free the road to Lvov. Captive German officers stated, "We were told that at Proskurov we would have to fight a small engagement to free the road to Lvov. Instead we had hard battles, with no alternative but to fall in action or get caught in another pocket prepared for us by the Russians."

Training of Vocational Workers

In 1943 the Central Administration of Labor Reserves trained hundreds of thousands of young workers for Soviet industry. The factory apprenticeship and vocational schools of Moscow alone supplied industry with 18,500 skilled young workers and manufactured 35,000,000 rubles worth of war materiel in their workshops.

During the year the students of the vocational schools of the Moscow Region produced more than 30,000 mines and hundreds of thousands of grenades, and repaired tens of thousands of guns, machine guns and tommy guns.

The labor reserve students also rendered very great assistance in restoring industry in liberated districts. Tens of thousands of vocational school graduates are now working in Stalingrad, the Donbas and the North Caucasus.

Anniversary of Rachmaninoff's Death

By Constantin Kuznetsov

A year has passed since the fervent heart of Rachmaninoff ceased to beat. During these 12 months our interest in Rachmaninoff and his creative endeavors has not in the least diminished, but has on the contrary grown stronger. His name is met with more often than ever in Soviet concert programs. There is an ever-increasing trend toward concerts devoted wholly to Rachmaninoff as an exponent of piano and vocal music. There is likewise a welcome tendency toward concert programs of his monumental compositions—repeated performances of his *Second* and *Third Symphonies*, by the Symphony Orchestra of the Radio Committee of the USSR under the baton of Professor Nikolai Golovanov.

I am familiar with the phonograph recording of the playing of Rachmaninoff's *Third Symphony* by the Philadelphia Orchestra under his own direction. This performance remains a treasure to us, bearing witness to Rachmaninoff's creative ideas, both as composer and conductor. But our Moscow interpretation of this remarkable symphony of the great composer is also on a high level. The symphony has, so to speak, returned to its native land. It has seemed to grow still more powerful, broader, more emotional. This may be an illusion of mine as a listener, but it persists.

I would like to say a few words about the *Third Symphony*. It is known that after Rachmaninoff went abroad at the close of 1917 he did not display any intense activity as a composer. This prolific master of song wrote very little vocal music during his stay abroad. I know only of his *Three Russian Songs*, for orchestra and chorus (Opus 41), published in Paris. These were often performed in the Soviet Union and enjoyed success here. Equally worthy of note is the fact that this peerless master of the keyboard wrote only one piano concerto while abroad, his *Fourth Concerto*.

Rachmaninoff suffered keenly and painfully from nostalgia, from being torn from his native soil. When his private records are published they will reveal a kind of dual picture of his life abroad—on one side will be the global star of the first magnitude, a welcome guest on the concert platforms of Western Europe and the United States; on the other, the profoundly Russian man whose native land lived constantly in his mind and spirit.

The creative fruition of the composer was his *Third Symphony* (Opus 44, 1936), remarkable not only for its refreshing and brilliant artistic inspiration, but for its unity of concept and the intense vigor of its realization. The *Third Symphony* wins audi-

ences by its "dramatic" quality. This is music which not only captivates by its tonal beauty, but also compellingly conquers listeners by its active force, its ideological influence. In the decline of his years, with unsurpassed creative energy the composer created a Russian musical monument.

By upbringing, artistic culture, tastes and friendly ties, Rachmaninoff was a Muscovite—a typical Muscovite of the first decade of the 1900's. These were years of tremendous spiritual and artistic growth. In music we meet the names of Scriabin and Medtner; in painting, Serov, Korovin and Vrubel; in poetry, Briusov and Blok. In this rich atmosphere of thought and feeling the sensitive and inquisitive nature of Rachmaninoff developed.

But while drawing on environment for many valuable elements, Rachmaninoff remained himself, always keeping himself somewhat apart. His letters of 1912–1917, addressed to Marietta Shaginian and published in the periodical *Novy Mir* (Volume 4, 1943), are interesting in this connection. Children, music, correspondence with intimate friends—such was the center of his private life. He is ready to confess that he is "afraid" to peep beyond his chosen circle. "I am afraid of them all," he writes, referring to the visitors to the Moscow art salons of the first decade of 1900. Those days of estheticism and snobbery always remained alien to Rachmaninoff.

The country, its northern Novgorod plains dotted with hills, its southern Tambov steppes—all this became flesh and blood of Rachmaninoff. His most tangible ties with music are with his northern birthplace of Novgorod. Manliness, firmness and restraint in outward show of feelings—an inward seething, initiative and activity—such is the historical type of the Novgorod native.

Kindred features are also sensed in another great Russian master of music, Rimski-Korsakov. Great Novgorod has now been liberated from the sacrilegious German invaders who Hunnishly demolished those national shrines of ancient days—the Spas Nereditsa and the St. Sophia Churches. Both Rimski-Korsakov and Rachmaninoff were born on Novgorod soil, where their mighty creations of art will abide through the ages as expressions of the Russian musical talent.

We not only listen lovingly to Rachmaninoff's music, but also study profoundly his artistic style. We feel a pressing need for a deep approach to this

(Continued on page eight)

Moscow Dynamo Stadium, Largest in the U



Development of Sports by the Soviet Trade Union

By Ilya Belitsky

The author, who is Chief of the Physical Culture Department of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions and President of the National Association of Gymnasts, has worked with the trade union athletic societies for the past 15 years. He was graduated from the Stalin Institute of Physical Culture in Moscow.

Soviet trade unions pay great attention to the development of sports among industrial and office workers. The 87 national trade union athletic societies in the USSR had a membership of 1,656,000 men and women before the war, and this did not include the various sports circles in factories, offices, educational institutions and on State farms.

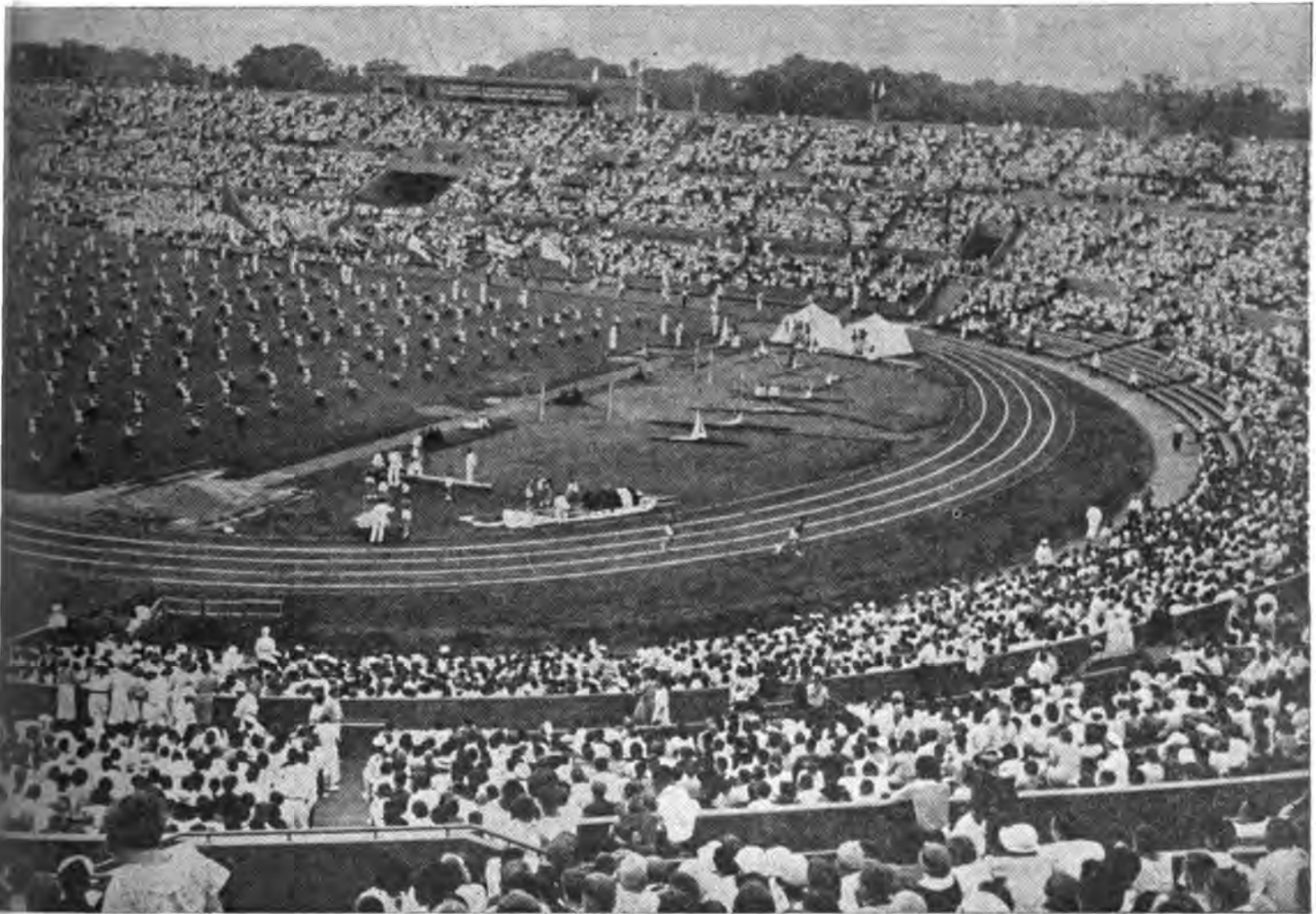
The trade unions have 212 stadiums, 1,559 sports

fields, 420 skiing clubs, 238 water-sports clubs, 552 gymnasiums, 20 athletic clubs, 29 alpine camps and four cycling tracks.

Prior to the German invasion, the membership of the athletic societies included 170,000 trackmen, 166,200 volley-ball players, 157,000 skiers, 135,400 gymnasts, 237,600 hunters, 114,000 chess players, 103,000 soccer players and over 300,000 alpinists. Hundreds of thousands of men and women were trained as motorcyclists, parachute jumpers, bayonet fighters and grenade throwers. Most of these are now fighting against the Nazis, and many have received military decorations for distinction in action.

During the years of war the trade unions have taken an active part in the training of Red Army

Scene of Many All-Union Athletic Contests



reserves. Physical fitness among young people is stressed. In 1943, ten million persons took part in the various mass competitions arranged by the trade unions throughout the country. During the winter 1942-43, about one million members of the trade union athletic societies were taught to fight on skis, and many have put the knowledge to good use in this winter's campaigns. Cross-country races in the summer of 1943 attracted a record number of 8,800,000 youth.

Soccer Training Season Begins

The State Physical Culture and Sports Committee has approved the 1944 schedule for soccer, which includes the traditional contests for the USSR cup and the All-Union championship games.

The foremost Moscow, Leningrad and Ukrainian teams have already begun training and the first games will be played in the middle of April. The sixth soccer championship matches will begin in May. Ten or 12

teams, including the best Soviet players who took part in international championship games, will compete.

Many of the soccer players have been fighting at the front, and most of the famous Dynamo team are in the Army. The Central Red Army Club team, which won the Moscow championship, is made up of officers and sergeants. The Tractor players defended Stalingrad, and all wear the Medal "For the Defense of Stalingrad." Every member of the Leningrad Dynamo team likewise wears the "For the Defense of Leningrad" Medal. The finest goal-keeper of the Kiev Dynamo eleven—all of whom fought the enemy—was killed by the Germans.

New teams organized during the war in Central Asia, Siberia, the Volga and the Caucasus, will participate in the championship games, which will continue for four months. In July the traditional USSR cup games will begin, with 200 teams taking part.

FIRST STEEL FROM UZBEKISTAN.

The people of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, in Central Asia, recently sent a message to Marshal Stalin, telling him of the wartime transformation of Uzbekistan, whose industrial output has increased by 150 per cent since June 22, 1941. In the early phase of the war there was an immense influx of evacuated enterprises from the front line zones. Uzbekistan now has aircraft, arms and ammunition, tank-building, heavy machine-building and electrical equipment industries. The people are irrigating vast new areas of their arid land. In the past three years the area under crops has increased by nearly 2,000,000 acres. Grain production has doubled.

Following is a brief account of the building of Uzbekistan's first iron and steel works, written by the chief engineer, T. Chernov:

Here on the banks of the Syr Darya we have nearly finished building the first iron and steel works in Soviet Uzbekistan. We have learned a great deal about working to curtailed schedules and using local building materials.

Before we started work, a committee of experts from the Academy of Sciences, led by Professor Bardin, carefully studied the raw material, fuel and energy resources of the district, and selected a site for us. They chose so well that we had a minimum of excavation to do, and local building materials were near at hand.

All this made it possible for us to begin large-scale construction in a short space of time. Nearly 18,000 cubic yards of sand, 20,000 cubic yards of gravel and 23,000 cubic yards of rubble were extracted from pits less than a mile from the site. The cement had to be carted about four miles. Only the bricks had to be hauled a distance of about 20 miles.

We arranged the shops so as to secure the shortest and most convenient oil and steam feed lines, railways and truck lines. But we had also to allow for the future expansion of the shops. We had to use local building materials, and to economize in timber, iron and all materials which had to be transported from other parts of the country. This necessity gave birth to a number of interesting schemes. The open hearth furnace shop and outer columns of the foundry department were built of monolithic reinforced concrete with a rigid framework. This measure effected an economy of 52 per cent in iron, and lowered costs by 31 per cent compared with an all-metal job. Instead of the reinforced concrete columns usually used in the construction of rolling mill departments, the builders relied on iron and brick. These materials were also used in the construction of the heat and power plant and gas generating station.

The roofing was perhaps our biggest problem. We had no high grade timber, or iron for a reinforced concrete job. So we built thin arched roofs of bricks. They proved very successful. Now they are being used a great deal for urgent building jobs in Uzbekistan.

Three-quarters of the excavation on the site was done by machinery. Building materials were transported on locomotive and trolley-drawn platforms on



Assembly shop in a Soviet tank-building plant

a narrow gauge railway, as well as by cranes, hoists etc. The preparation of concrete mixtures was mechanized.

The aid of the Council of People's Commissars of Soviet Uzbekistan was invaluable in speeding up the construction of the first iron and steel works in the Republic. The German invaders will soon have a taste of shells and bombs made from Uzbek steel.

Tatars Work and Fight Like Lions

By Gali Dinmukhamedov

Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Tatar Republic

Gali Dinmukhamedov is 52 years old. He was born in a peasant family in what used to be the Kazan Region. At 13 he went to work in a mine. After the establishment of Soviet power he became prominent as a worker and statesman. With a delegation of 19 of his countrymen, he attended the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

In 1943 the Tatar Republic increased its total industrial production by 142 per cent as compared with 1941. War industries doubled their output. Kazan's factories completed their 1943 assignments ahead of schedule.

Our farmers are doing magnificent work. Seventy-year-old Ibrahim Nagumanov, of the Pravda collective farm, sent six of his sons to the front to defend his Soviet homeland. One of them, Khabibula, has been made a Hero of the Soviet Union. Ibrahim, in spite of his years, still works in the fields.

The people of the Tatar Republic have shown their devotion to their country not only by honest, self-sacrificing toil, but also by their savings: 205 million rubles have been collected for the tank and air de-

fense funds. The first State war loan (1942) brought in 286 million rubles, the second (1943) 335 million.

In spite of the war our expenditure on public and cultural enterprises has increased. In 1940 we spent 272 million rubles, and in 1943, 301 million. The number of schools increased from 3,510 in 1940-41 to 3,610 in 1943-44. Thousands of children of service men have been accommodated in kindergartens and nurseries. In Kazan special dining halls have been opened for them. Over 265 million rubles were paid out in 1943 on pensions and allowances for war invalids and families of fighting men in our Republic.

The people of the Tatar Republic have sent presents valued at 37 million rubles, and warm clothing valued at 10 million rubles to the front-line fighters and the Ukrainian and Byelorussian guerrillas. Tatars on the Leningrad Front wrote to thank us. They said: "Dear fathers, mothers, wives and brothers, you said you wanted us to fight like lions. We swear that the Tatar horsemen will be true. We will fight the enemy mercilessly with bullet, grenade and bayonet. We will crush him under our tanks and tear him from the sky, until he is driven from our sacred soil."

TREASURE OF THE "BLACK LAND"

The fathers of the Kazakhs of today called this treeless, arid steppe "Karaganda," which means "black land" in the Kazakh language. This area of sun-scorched grass and parched rivers was owned by several wealthy Kazakh "beys." Long before the Revolution two Russian merchants, Ushakov and Ryazanov, first discovered there were coal deposits in the vicinity, and induced the owners to part with the land for 250 rubles. The purchasers sold Karaganda to Carnot, son of the French President, for 750 rubles. Later it passed to an English firm which put a few small mines into operation.

At the beginning of this century the town of Karaganda, today a modern city with a population of nearly 200,000, was a tiny mining village of 150 people. As far back as 1920 a group of Soviet geologists made a survey of the local coal resources and established that Karaganda's reserves amounted to four billion tons of coking coal. Large mines were opened and workers' settlements built, and the town of Karaganda began to grow apace. In 1932 the rapidly developing coalfield was linked with the outer world by a 450-mile railway connecting it with the town of Petropavlovsk, on the Trans-Siberian line. Shortly afterwards a second line 300 miles long was laid from Karaganda to Lake Balkhash.

New geological surveys showed that the original estimates were but a fraction of the actual total of Karaganda's coal reserves. Several years after the large-scale development of the coalfield began, they were established at 50 billion tons. Soon other deposits were discovered, adding another three billion tons, and even that was not the end.

The land, once considered barren, yields rich crops of vegetables, wheat, rice and melons. About 40,000 miners cultivate their own allotments. The Karaganda mining trust also runs large-scale truck gardens which help to supply the workers with fresh foodstuffs. Thousands of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats belonging to the trust graze in the Karaganda steppes.

The importance of the Karaganda coalfields increased tremendously after the temporary loss of the Donets Basin. Thousands of Donbas miners were evacuated there when the Germans overran their coalfields. They brought with them a high degree of skill, which they have passed on to the Karaganda miners. It is significant that the Stalin coal trust, which holds the lead in the Karaganda Coal Basin, is headed by Zhuchenko, a Donbas engineer, and Pit No. 18, the best in the Stalin coal trust, works under Engineer Tarabanov, another Donbas man.

THE SINGING VILLAGE

The little village of Sinyavino, in the Tula Region, is a barely discernible dot on the huge map of the Soviet Union. But it has its place and fame in the great family of Soviet cities and villages. Sinyavino is the home of a remarkable group of singers. Turgenev, who used to visit the village on hunting expeditions, was charmed by the singing of the local peasants. In his book *A Sportsman's Sketches*, which has been translated into many languages, he wrote of his meetings with the people, whose singing amazed and touched him.

The choir of Sinyavino, which was formed over a century ago, is justifiably regarded as one of the finest amateur peasant choruses in Russia. For more than half a century it was under the guidance of a local schoolmaster who was passionately fond of vocal music. He taught the country children to sing and developed their musical taste.

Famous actors and musicians used to travel to the village to listen to the chorus and study the fine simplicity of its art. No big holiday or festival in Tula was complete without the Sinyavino choir. Tula was always noted for its samovars, and after one celebration the Tula workers presented the peasants with a huge samovar as a token of their gratitude.

Sinyavino was always a patriotic village. During the last World War, 15 of its men won the St. George Cross, the highest soldier's award of the time. The

Sinyavino vocalists invariably led the singing in their battalions and companies. In the Civil War the village sent 50 men to the Red Army, and today there are 120 in its ranks. The flying ace Boris Safonov, twice honored with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, was born in this village; he is the son of the schoolmaster mentioned above.

* * *

A day came when songs were no longer heard in Sinyavino's streets. The German invader drove his tanks into the village and occupied it. The Hitlerite General Guderian, whose headquarters was in the neighborhood, was seen there.

To the village of music the Nazis brought violence and death. The most horrifying of their crimes was the torture of 15-year-old Georgi Agapov. To symbolize the fate of Russia, which they intended to bridle, the Germans harnessed this young boy to a loaded cart, forced a bit into his bleeding mouth and compelled him to drag the cart, after which they killed him.

But the Red Army returned. The Germans were forced to flee, and the people came out of their hiding places to restore their destroyed households. The remaining members of the chorus were again assembled and soon were giving concerts for Red Army units, proving once more that no power can fetter a people who love liberty and song.

RACHMANINOFF

(Continued from page three)

remarkable and versatile artist. His art, like all genuine art, reaches home. Before our very eyes it is becoming part of the national artistic domain.

But Rachmaninoff's art is not so simple that it can be encompassed by ordinary standards. There is a particular need for a re-appraisal of Rachmaninoff as a master of the orchestra. In such of his earlier compositions as his *Third Piano Concerto*, for example, there is a marked tendency to merge piano and orchestra in a supreme synthetic unity. In his later works, such as the *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini* (Opus 43, 1934), is embodied the remarkable unity between piano and orchestra. Rachmaninoff achieved an ever greater harmony between his incomparable gift as a "virtuoso" and that other gift of his which did not develop to its fullest—that of the "creator." In the struggle for this harmony lies the very meaning of his artistic life.

Entire Crew of Reconnaissance Plane Decorated in Kremlin

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union and the Gold Star Medal were recently conferred upon Yefim Melakha, pilot, and Rostislav Yashchuk, navigator, of a long-distance reconnaissance plane. At the same time the gunner and radio operator, Nuri Kashefutdinov, received the Order of the Red Banner. The ceremony took place in the Kremlin.

Twenty-six-year-old Melakha, oldest of the three was formerly a fitter in Odessa; the navigator was a Ukrainian farmer and the gunner-radioman a farmer from the Tatar Republic.

The crew, considered one of the finest in the regiment, has made numerous reconnaissance flights deep into the enemy rear. It has carried out 80 bombing missions far behind the front lines, destroying around 100 hangars and 300 planes, blowing up hundreds of railway bridges and killing several thousand Hitlerites.

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Protecting the Health of Children in Wartime

By Professor G. Speransky

Corresponding Member, Academy of Sciences of USSR

At the beginning of the war serious difficulties confronted the institutions responsible for child health protection. Mobilization of fathers for active service, mass employment of women in industry and agriculture, evacuation of children from threatened areas and their reestablishment in new homes, necessitated a rapid extension of the nursery and kindergarten systems. Hundreds of new institutions had to be organized and equipped, uninterrupted supplies guaranteed for the children's maintenance and ar-

rangements made for women to nurse their infants at their places of work. In addition, new staffs had to be trained for kindergartens and nurseries. It was imperative that all this be done on an extensive scale at wartime speed.

Intensive work was demanded of the Health Departments in Moscow and throughout our vast country. The Government passed a number of important resolutions for the improvement of medical



During the "white nights" of summer, Leningrad children studied their lessons while guarding the vegetable plots

and other services for children, and created the conditions for putting them into effect. Arrangements were made for the supply of milk and other dairy products for the children; basic diets were established for all dining rooms, and the problem of equipment and proper heating for kindergartens and nurseries was solved. By Government decision a special children's doctor was appointed in towns, workers' settlements and districts, who was charged with the great responsibility of taking all measures to safeguard the health of children during the war.

Tremendous efforts were made by the Department of Health to insure reliable protection from air raids for children remaining within the enemy's sphere of operations. The rapid construction of shelters for hospitals saved many lives. Terrible as conditions were in Leningrad, all children's institutions except those evacuated continued functioning.

In the districts in the interior to which children were evacuated from the war zones, the best buildings were converted into boarding schools, nurseries and kindergartens. These institutions were staffed by local residents, first trained by the more experienced personnel who had accompanied the children. During the first two and one-half years of war, 96,500 new cots were installed in the nurseries, and children's dining rooms were opened in every town and thickly populated locality.

Well-known specialists in children's diseases and hygiene conducted lecture courses for doctors and nurses anxious to raise the quality of their work, and also aided organizations of the Department of Health to improve the work of children's medical institutions. The persistent struggle against infectious diseases of children brought excellent results. The number of cases of measles and scarlatina was

markedly reduced even by comparison with prewar years.

An inevitable consequence of war is a low birth-rate and a high infant mortality, and this war is no exception. During the latter half of 1941 and the first half of 1942, infant mortality rose somewhat, but in the third and particularly in the last quarter of 1942 it fell again, by comparison with the same months of the previous year.

The problem of the maintenance and upbringing of children who have lost one or both parents in the war has had special attention from the Government. Homes for the very young orphans have been established throughout the country, and there are also the Suvorov Military Schools. All of these institutions are run on model lines, with the children in the care of carefully chosen and experienced staffs.

In districts liberated from the German occupation, many difficulties confront the organizers of children's health services. Personnel who formerly worked in these places are being recalled and equipment and medicine supplied. Epidemics and infectious diseases resulting from fascist occupation are being rapidly wiped out. Branches of the Medical Service working far in the rear organize polyclinics, nurseries and hospitals which can be immediately set up in newly-liberated areas. They also share with these areas their own equipment, instruments and manuals—and what is most essential, send them qualified people for the new institutions.

That much of our work needs further improvement we freely admit. But even a hasty glance at the results accomplished in the safeguarding of children under wartime conditions, and the scale of our work and plans, permit us to look forward to success in the future.

REST HOME FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

By M. Osin

Not far from Kuibyshev, in a pretty country place on the bank of the Volga, is one of the Soviet Union's newest rest homes for expectant mothers. It is reserved for women working in war factories. Here they can spend their pregnancy leave in peace and quiet under the care of a medical staff.

This rest home was built and furnished in the short space of two months. Its immaculate wards, its wide verandas overlooking gardens, and its quiet, ordered atmosphere create a welcome environment for the woman whose child is to be born.

The guests receive special rations of butter, eggs, cheese, cream, vegetables and meat. Exercises under the doctor's supervision are part of the daily routine. The superintendent runs a "mothercraft school," at

which specialists from Kuibyshev teach the mothers-to-be how to look after themselves and their babies.

I visited the home recently and talked to Anna Nikolayevna, who works in one of our biggest munition plants. "We get the best of everything here, and rest in body and mind," she said.

The home is affiliated to the Kuibyshev Institute for Maternity and Child Welfare. Any patient whose pregnancy does not proceed normally is transferred to an appropriate hospital. But abnormalities are rare. Arrangements for admission to the home are usually made by the factory committee. The fees are paid either by the factory committee from the social insurance funds, or by the factory administration from special funds. Expectant mothers who wish to pay for their stay privately may do so.

These pictures were taken at the Soviet Government's home for war orphans in Kursk. Many of the children witnessed all the horrors of fascist occupation

In warm fur jackets, the children take their daily walk in the garden. The lime and birch trees along the path were planted by the youngsters, to replace those cut down by the invaders



Red Army sappers repair the home's water mains, which were blown up by the retreating Germans. The little boy is offering the soldiers a drink of kvass, a refreshing beverage



Lyuba Zolotukhina (left) and Dusya Kovolyova study their Russian lesson. Dusya's entire family perished when their peaceful village was bombed by the Nazis



THE 'LENINGRAD STYLE'

By V. Antonov

The author is a special correspondent for IZVESTIA.

At first glance one sees the deep imprint of war on Leningrad. The city is not at all as it was before. For one thing, the population has diminished perceptibly. Thousands and thousands of citizens have gone to the front; scores of thousands of others were evacuated with their factories and plants and are now forging arms for victory in various parts of the USSR. Many are dead from famine, enemy shellings and bombings. There are very few children in the streets. Most of the juniors of the battered city are living in towns, villages and farms all over the land, surrounded with love and care.

While visiting Leningrad I saw some eloquent souvenirs of the days of siege. One was a pair of scales with tiny gram weights on one side and 125 grams of black, earthy bread on the other—the daily ration of Leningrad people in the worst months of the blockade. In those bitter days boiling water was on sale in the city shops, and people's hearts are still warm with gratitude toward those who thought of this life-saving measure.

A photograph of the Nevsky in 1941 shows snow-covered trolley buses and street cars stalled for lack of power, while people plod along a narrow, beaten path, hauling their dead on sleds. In the background are the tottering ruins of buildings. The terrible rigors of the blockade might have been expected to drain the city of its last ounce of resistance. But this was not so. Leningrad stood firm and unshaken. Grimly oblivious to their own feelings, the citizens patched up the gutted buildings, filled craters in the streets and cleared away the ruins of shattered houses. The Germans spared neither schools, hospitals nor world-renowned monuments. Bombs and shells played havoc with the Marinsky Theater. The beautiful marble column is shell-pitted.

* * *

As we approached Leningrad along the Narva highway, our companion, a native of the city, urged us in a voice of deep feeling to look in a certain direction. Although we strained our eyes, we could see nothing remarkable, beyond the majestic outlines of the city against the blue sky.

"The smoke," he said, impatiently. "Don't you see the smoke from the factory chimneys?"

Now we noticed a cloud of smoke rising over one of the city's industrial suburbs which for two years was only a stone's throw from the forward lines—even within range of German trench mortars. Work did not stop for a single day in this district, although the grit and caution of a seasoned scout were demanded of the men and women who kept production

going and concealed all traces of their activity from the enemy.

At the city gates a group of Red Army men were pulling down barricades across street car tracks. Women and children watching them beamed with joy. At times we observed citizens still instinctively crossing to the side of the street regarded as "safer" during the fascist shelling. Upon reaching the other side, many would pause with a sheepish smile, remembering there was no more need for caution.

Leningrad is rapidly shedding the gaunt look of blockade days. Citizens with buckets of paint and brushes are dressing up the streets—doing their utmost to restore their city's comely appearance. Stores, restaurants and public dining rooms are re-opening. Animated crowds flock to theaters and cinemas. The long lines of blockade days are conspicuously absent. At night, no matter how dark, one is able to find any building even in the most obscure street by the glow of the blue light above the number. Nor do you have any difficulty reaching your apartment once you are inside the building.

Throughout almost the first half of winter the weather was remarkably mild. With spring around the corner, the city was suddenly swept by blizzards, followed by rains. Undaunted, the people ministered to their city with brooms and shovels. As precipitously as it came, the transient Baltic winter departed, and now the city in full sunlight rises like a dream from the filmy violet mist.

The war has only deepened the devotion of the Leningrader to his native city. And his feelings toward it have given rise to stern moral standards and to a feeling of close-knit neighborliness, not unlike the comradeship of battle. We have somehow come to think of these standards as the "Leningrad style"—a style that is apparent in every particular, in the streets and dwellings, the theaters, factories and offices of that great city.

Leningrad Girl Receives Order of Glory

Junior Sergeant Anna Sundukova is the first girl from Leningrad and the first from the anti-aircraft defense units to win the Order of Glory, Third Class.

She earned this high award after rescuing Second Lieutenant Baranov from his burning plane. Pilot Baranov was returning from a recent mission when his machine was hit and burst into flames. Although wounded, he managed to land at an airdrome. Anna Sundukova, who had watched the landing, rushed to the blazing machine, climbed into the cockpit and rescued him a few moments before the plane exploded.

Activities of Secret Group of Soviet Patriots in German-Occupied Town

The following is a report by Hero of the Soviet Union Victor C., who for a long time was leader of a large secret patriotic organization set up in one of the German-occupied towns. Not so long ago, the members of this organization crossed the front line and joined the Red Army:

I was teaching drawing and drafting when the Germans captured our city. From the first days of occupation they tried their best to win the intellectuals, doctors, teachers and engineers to their side, tempting them with promises of good food rations. A very few of the townsfolk, however, agreed to work for them.



Red Army scouts make a night halt

I was among those who refused. I detested everything about them—their faces, their language, their green uniforms and their coarse, insolent eyes. In a group of friends, teachers like myself, I preferred to hang around the labor exchange, waiting for some suitable unskilled work. We wouldn't take

just any job that came along, and perhaps for this reason many of us began to feel pinched. After a long wait, we got what we wanted at last: joiners were needed to make coffins. Coffins for Germans! What could be more appropriate? So we applied for the job at once.

Carpentry has been my hobby since boyhood, so I didn't have much trouble teaching my friends the trade. We worked from morning till night nailing coffins together for German soldiers and officers. The bodies were brought in by truck from the front. The more coffins needed, the more we liked it. Incidentally, the coffins we made were of standard size and if the corpse was too long it was just stuffed in anyhow.

It was in this workshop that our secret organization came into being. My comrades and I were its first members, but gradually our ranks swelled. Notwithstanding the reign of terror instituted by the Germans, our membership grew from day to day. Before long we had our people at the labor exchange, in the local printshop, in the German food stores and in the theater.

Our first big job was the release of a group of Red Army officers the Germans had locked in a camp on the site of the former airdrome. Among the officers were a good many from our own town. For obvious reasons I cannot tell how the escape was managed. It was a difficult and dangerous operation involving the risk of death, but it was successful. We put the released prisoners under the care of trusted persons, dressed them in civilian clothes and supplied them with appropriate documents. Many left the city, the rest remained to work with us.

As our group grew we extended the scope of our activity. The German commandant would issue an order and when it was posted the following morning, beside it would hang our leaflet urging the population to sabotage the measures of the occupation authorities. I am at liberty now to say that these leaflets were printed in the same German printshop and by the same machine on which the commandant's order was set up.

Within a few months we had our own printshop. The type and paper were stolen from the Nazis; the printing machine I made myself. Our printshop was very busy. We put out leaflets, printed the daily communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau which we received by radio, and even cartoons poking fun at the Germans. At times our leaflets appeared as regularly as the German daily.

One of our members was a chemical engineer. He

rigged up a chemical laboratory and with a couple of assistants began producing mines. As soon as we had a large enough supply we got busy. One morning the German commandant opened the drawer of his desk, and the next moment he was blown sky-high. On another occasion a group of fascist officers went to a Christmas party. When the lights were lit on the Christmas tree, the whole thing exploded. Mines exploded in the most unexpected places and under the queerest circumstances.

It goes without saying that literally every hour and every day the members of our organization risked their lives. Each of our operations involved days of minute study and preparation. In recruiting assistants from among the local population and in establishing a ramified intelligence system, we carried out a large amount of organizational work.

When the front line began to approach the town we decided to deal a mass blow. We learned that an officers' meeting was due to be held in the local theater. A mechanic who belonged to our group worked for several days mining the stage.

The day arrived. At the prescribed hour the German officers began to fill the hall. The highest officers and important Nazi town officials took their places on the stage. The mechanic let them talk for a while. When the general rose to address the meeting, he went down into a deep cellar, the entrance to which had been camouflaged, and pulled a switch.

There was a terrific explosion. The whole stage, including the presidium, and the front rows of seats, were blow up. The walls and the ceiling were damaged and the blast injured nearly all the German officers who had been seated in the orchestra. The theater burned down. Our man got away by the fire escape.

The affair caused a terrific sensation, of course.

Marine Scouts in Crimea Utilize Novel Craft

Six marine scouts who landed on the shores of the Crimea were cut off by the Germans. Unable to keep their rendezvous with the motor launch waiting to return them to the Caucasian coast, the sailors fought bravely, but could not break through the tightening enemy ring. The Germans pressed them into the undergrowth along the shore. Realizing this would shelter them only until dawn, the sailors made a vow to fight to the end.

But group commander Sergeant Shulik could not reconcile himself to the idea of dying. He scoured the shore, looking for a way out. Suddenly he bumped into a huge barrel, the kind used in peacetime for salting down fish. The barrel was promptly launched with the six sailors standing tightly packed together, rowing with a stick cut from the brush.

The Gestapo got busy and house-to-house searches were made. Late one evening they came to my flat. When the officer asked for my documents I showed him a paper certifying that I worked at the power station. Since the power station was one of the most important enterprises in the town, its personnel received their documents direct from the German commandant's office. Of course mine was false. As a matter of fact, I had forged it myself, copying it from one belonging to a friend who actually did work there. The German read the document and nodded approvingly. "Gut, gut," he said.

Nevertheless they made a thorough search of the whole apartment. They tapped the walls, tore away the wallpaper, lifted up the carpets and looked into every nook and cranny. But they did not find the lithography stones I had hidden in the stove-pipe. On the wall hung a picture of a Byelorussian forest scene; on the back of it was the plan of the German fortifications in our town. But the officer, who happened to find several German grammars on my shelf and a dictionary published by the occupation authorities, evidently concluded that I was one of those who had been tempted by the German food rations, and stopped the search.

The Germans didn't catch a single member of our organization. Nor did they find any trace of it. But they resorted to another measure. They issued an order that all the male population of the town, youngsters to old men, were to be shipped to Germany. To save my group I decided to get them out of town as soon as possible. In one night we fabricated all the documents we needed, and under the guise of workers mobilized for railway duty, we left the town. One by one we made our way to a district where our guerrillas were operating and joined them. Soon after, the guerrillas struck a blow at the German rear, enabling us to join up with advancing units of the Red Army.

A Nazi self-propelling barge passed so close they heard German speech, but the enemy noticed nothing. Soon the barrel began to leak and the scouts realized they would not be able to cover even half the distance to the other shore before dawn.

At daybreak another enemy barge appeared. The sailors ceased rowing, but the Germans had seen the barrel. They sent a few shells after it, which luckily missed.

Two Soviet planes appeared over the Straits and the shelling stopped. The sailors waved to the fliers who dipped their wings and described a circle in acknowledgment. Shortly afterward two Soviet torpedo boats sped from the Caucasus shore and picked up the six scouts.

'Medical Science' in Nazi Germany

By Professor Nikolai Semashko

The fanatical, callous and truly bestial practices of the fascists in the field of "theoretical medicine" are notorious. Hitler announced at a Nuremberg Congress: "If a million children were born in Germany every year and seven or eight hundred thousand of the weakest of them were destroyed, the final result would possibly mean a stronger and more vigorous race."

"Learned" fascist lackeys hastened to confer "scientific" authority on the fascist Herod. A certain Dr. Lenz stated that infant mortality was a "beneficent barrier, purging the race," that children's infections (measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria) and tuberculosis, too, were beneficent, "destroying the physically weak." This was said and written at a time when medicine, the most humanitarian of all sciences and of all spheres of human activity, had recorded almost miraculous successes in reducing infant mortality.

Another fascist lickspittle, Kulenkammer, announced: "Too much assistance at childbirth may lead to the preservation of the lives of children who bear within them the germs of disease and bring considerable harm to the mother, the child itself and to society. Legislation should establish order in this matter"—by closing down maternity hospitals, apparently. This person had the impudence to head his article "The Renaissance of Medical Science."

So much for their concern for the welfare of mothers and children. Their attitude towards adults is equally callous. A leading fascist "theoretician," Alfred Pfaff, teaches: "Unemployment insurance stimulates laziness. At present, sick funds are not so much organizations for maintaining the national health as a means of facilitating the simulation of illness. At the same time, they promote the moral degradation of both doctors and patients."

The official fascist newspaper *Deutsche Fuehrer-briefe* responded with: "The government is faced with the practical task of introducing complete reforms in social insurance." The "government," however, dealt with social insurance without bothering about reforms: they simply annexed the social insurance funds and used them to prepare for "totalitarian war." During the first five years of fascist power unemployment insurance funds were "organized" to the tune of three billion marks, plus 2,300,000,000 marks misappropriated from invalid pensions.

"Racial Selection"

Hitler has put millions of Germans in their graves and millions more are crippled. What do the fascists promise their crippled invalids? Somebody by the name of Goldbecker, writing in a journal called *Zeitschrift fur Kruppelfursorge*, says: "Voices are heard everywhere asking why we should give cripples back their ability to work, when there are many healthy people who have to struggle hard to maintain their jobs."

The certificated hangmen of fascist medicine have demonstrated their methods with dreadful precision in the German-occupied Soviet districts. They murdered 530 hospital patients at Burashevo, in the Kalinin district. They poisoned with morphia several hundred patients in the Mental Hospital in the village of Bredisty, and used the hospital premises as a casino. They organized "experimental stations" in Pskov, where poison gases were tried out on Russian prisoners. On many occasions they have gathered together Soviet patients suffering from typhus spread by their own vermin-ridden army, locked them up, poured petrol over the building and burned them to death.

In the Tula district they destroyed or burned 68.5 per cent of the hospitals, 66.5 per cent of the maternity homes, 82.5 per cent of the creches, 33.5 per cent of the clinics, 56.8 per cent of the welfare centers, 77 per cent of the anti-epidemic stations, 32.7 per cent of the dispensaries and 80 per cent of the bath-houses. They destroyed 85 per cent of the water mains. They failed to bring the figure up to 100 per cent only because the Red Army drove them out before they could finish the job.

On Mount Koltso in Kislovodsk, once the favorite promenade of people taking the waters at the famous Caucasian spa, the Germans had an execution ground for Soviet citizens. The bodies of over 1,000 civilians were found in pits near the mountain. Many of the bodies were difficult to recognize, so badly were they mutilated. We found there the bodies of a local surgeon, Dr. Kaufman, his wife, daughter and five-year-old grandson.

The barbarians blew up a number of sanatoria, chopped down trees in the parks for firewood, smashed all the sculptures, stole the carpets, pictures, hangings, period furniture, medical equipment, mattresses and clothing, ash-trays, door knobs and window catches.

At Pyatigorsk they blew up the Balneological Institute, destroyed the Chemico-Pharmaceutical Institute and wrecked the famous Lermontov and Pushkin Baths. They burned the library of the Balneological Institute, with its valuable collection of 105,000 scientific books, and completely destroyed the Archives of the History of Mineral Waters, dating back to 1818.

Such is fascist medicine. When the reckoning comes the fascist doctors will stand beside their chiefs in the dock.

200 Problems Face Soviet Scientists

The general session of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, held in February, heard a number of reports on the latest achievements of Soviet science in various spheres and on the Academy's plans for research for 1944.

Alikhanov dealt with the work of Soviet physicists engaged in the study of cosmic rays. The achievements of Soviet scientists in the study of the mechanical properties of solid substances were summed up by Alexandrov. Bogomolets, Hero of Socialist Labor, acquainted the audience with the latest results of his prolonged and fruitful work in the activization of the defensive functions of the human organism and in enhancing its resistance to disease.

Polar Expeditions

A report summing up the work of the North Pole drifting station was made by Shirshov, Hero of the Soviet Union. The work of this drifting station, of the icebreaker Sedov and airplane N-169, is part of the general plan of Soviet research in the Polar Regions. These Soviet Polar expeditions have necessitated revision of a number of hypotheses current since Nansen's time.

The session approved the Academy's plan of scientific research for 1944. Over 200 scientific problems arising from fundamental political and economic tasks confronting the Soviet country will be investigated. Special attention will be paid to the mineral, agricultural and forest resources of the Urals, the

resources of Kazakhstan and the northeastern region of the European part of the USSR, and oil prospecting in the region of the "Second Baku."

There will be large-scale research into scientific problems arising from the economic rehabilitation of liberated areas, in particular technical problems of the reconstruction of the Donets Basin.

Transformation of Urals

A paper on "The Urals, Past and Present" was read by Strumilin, a leading Soviet economist, who spoke of the unparalleled development of Urals industries under the Five-Year Plans and in particular during the war. The extensive plan to shift the country's productive forces eastward, to the expanses in and beyond the Urals, had necessitated large-scale prospecting, which resulted in the discovery of extremely rich oil-bearing areas, deposits of potassium, salt, bauxite, chromium and manganese ores, asbestos and new deposits of coal. Stalin's Five-Year Plans drastically changed the industrial aspect of the Urals. During the war Europe's largest blast furnaces have been built at Magnitogorsk.

Vice President of the Academy Baikov said in his concluding speech: "The reports delivered at this session demonstrate that the war has not reduced the scope of scientific activity in our country. . . . It is a matter of honor for Soviet scientists to continue fundamental scientific studies to promote world science."

THE BYELORUSSIAN UNIVERSITY

By Ivan Vlashko

When the Germans occupied Minsk in 1941, they destroyed the home of the Byelorussian University, plundered its laboratories and burned its rare and valuable books, archives and collections. Professors and students left the flaming city, some to fight with the Red Army, others in guerrilla detachments and still others to work in war plants in the rear.

In the fall of 1943 the Byelorussian University reopened in a suburb of Moscow. In December the Board of Regents held a meeting dedicated to the reopening of the University and to the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (January 1, 1944).

Parfen Savitsky, Rector of the University and Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian

SSR, contrasted the peaceful years of tremendous construction in the Republic with the terrible devastation wrought by the Germans. He spoke gratefully of the fraternal aid of the Russian people to the Byelorussian University and the large contributions of literature from Moscow University and laboratory equipment and museum exhibits from other schools.

A volume of the University's reports and papers will be published shortly. Among the works of especial interest are "The Byelorussian People in the Bogdan Khmel'nitsky Movement," by Professor Vladimir Minkolsky; "The Patriotic Idea in the Works of Yanka Kupala," by Professor Mikhail Larchenko; and "Blossoming of Happiness in Byelorussian Folklore," by Professor Vladimir Shevchenko.

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Red Army Reaches Frontiers of USSR

PRAVDA writes editorially:

March 26, 1944, is a date which will shine with particular brilliance in the heroic annals of the great Patriotic War of the Soviet people. On that day the country fired a salute of 324 guns in honor of the glorious victory gained by the gallant troops of the Second Ukrainian Front. On that day the whole country heard with deep emotion in Supreme Commander Marshal Stalin's Order of the Day the news of a joyful and noteworthy event: the Red Army had reached the frontiers of the USSR on the Prut River.

Our thoughts turn back to that day when the enemy perfidiously and without warning violated our borders and invaded the territory of our sacred motherland. The enemy hurled his whole army and all his armament against us. No other country in Europe could have withstood such an onslaught. Hitler, in fact, reckoned on staggering the Red Army with his first brigand blow, paralyzing the resistance of the Soviet people and sowing panic, terror and dismay. The blow of the concentrated forces of fascist Germany and her vassals was to strike like lightning, and the blitzkrieg was to bring victory to the arrogant



The morning mail arrives at the "Soviet Village"—a collective farm in Bogorodsk district, Gorky Region. This farm, which has received the Order of Lenin, subscribes to 200 various newspapers and periodicals

conquerors of France, Belgium, Holland, Norway and other European states.

But the German aggressors did not realize where they were going so confidently and brazenly. They did not realize at what a people and what a country they were striking their piratical blow, and what retribution awaited them.

When on June 22, 1941, Hitler ordered his troops to cross the frontier of the Soviet State, he thought he was signing the death warrant of the liberty, independence and unity of the Soviet Union. Actually, on that day he signed the death warrant of Hitler Germany. That warrant is being carried out. It will be carried out to the end.

That very day, June 22, 1941, the heroic resistance of the Soviet frontier guards and the advanced units of the Red Army upset the triumphal schedule of German victories. Hitler's notorious blitz did not come off. The war took a different course from what Hitler's generals expected.

The Germans succeeded in piercing our frontiers. They succeeded in penetrating into our country. In 1942 they got as far as the Volga. In their blindness they thought this was victory. But the farther they advanced from the Soviet frontiers, the nearer they drew to their doom. It was prepared for them by Stalin's strategic genius and the unparalleled bravery of the Red Army.

Stalingrad presaged the decline of the German-fascist army. It was the retribution demanded from Germany for the crimes of Hitler's marauding imperialist bands. From Stalingrad to the foothills of the Caucasus the German army, exhausted, mauled and battered in fighting and discouraged by defeat, turned back. It began its inglorious retreat back to the western frontier of the Soviet Union.

Vain were the Germans' attempts to halt their retreat. In vain did they cling to the water barriers. The Don, Dnieper, Bug and Dniester, those Soviet rivers, afforded the enemy no foothold, but freely allowed their own Red Army to pass.

The Red Army successfully fought the winter campaign of 1942-43, won the summer battle of 1943 and launched a triumphant offensive in the winter of 1943-44. For over a year the Red Army unwaveringly retained the initiative, and is smiting and destroying, surrounding and demolishing the enemy. The world has not witnessed the like. There is no other example in history of an unbroken advance of this character.

In vain did the Hitlerites expect the Red Army to weaken in this offensive, carried out under extremely difficult conditions. They yearned for respite. But what they got and are getting is not respite, but blows of ever-increasing power. Let not the bankrupt adven-

turers flatter themselves with vain delusions. They will get no respite until their very death.

Driving the German invaders before it, the Red Army returned to the Soviet western borders. When the Germans invaded our country 33 months ago, they possessed a temporary superiority over the Red Army. The German army was numerous, and what is more, it was fully mobilized. The Germans had a big superiority in aircraft and tanks. Their troops were already seasoned and had amassed experience in modern warfare. The Germans were confident of victory. They marched forward obediently, carrying out the piratical orders of the German command and believing in the myth of the invincibility of the German army.

In that first encounter on the frontier, the Red Army was still weaker than its adversary. Its only superiority lay in its boundless courage, its consciousness of the sacredness and justice of its cause, its readiness to dedicate all its strength to the defense of the motherland. The strength of the Red Army lay in the fact that behind it, moved by an indomitable urge, the entire Soviet people rose up, ready under the guidance of the Party of Lenin and Stalin to bring into play all the power of their socialist economy.

Stalin taught the Soviet people that the enemy had on his side only a temporary and transient superiority, and that the permanently operating factors of victory were on the side of the Soviet people. All that was needed was to dedicate all energies to keep the front supplied with weapons, ammunition and food, and to master the use of arms and the military art to perfection.

It is a different Red Army, and different Germans and their underlings, who are meeting on the frontier today. As Stalin foresaw, the Red Army has grown more powerful and tempered, while Hitler's army has grown weaker.

The Germans are fleeing under the blows of the Red Army across the Soviet frontier, having lost on their long path their finest picked divisions. The roads between the Prut and the Volga are strewn with shattered German armament and carpeted with millions of German corpses. At the Volga the Germans lost faith in victory. At the Prut they are losing faith in salvation. The German strategy is as bankrupt as its brigand policy.

"In the present war Germany, though fighting with her main forces on one front against the USSR, nevertheless not only proved unable to score a victory, but has been brought to the verge of disaster by the powerful blows of the armed forces of the Soviet Union. If the Soviet Union, fighting single-handed, not only withstood the onslaught of the German war machine, but also inflicted a decisive defeat on the German-fascist troops, all the more hopeless

It will be the situation of Hitler Germany when the main forces of the Allies join action and the powerful and growing offensive of the armies of all the allied states develops against Hitler Germany." (Stalin).

It is vain for the Germans and their underlings to cling to their initial positions. Neither rivers nor mountains will help them now. Retribution will catch them everywhere. Rumanian speculators, who recently gloated over the fact that the guns were firing far away on the Volga, now hear the music of Soviet artillery with their own ears.



Alimulla Habidulin, emerging from his T-34 tank, a Tatar by nationality. An agronomist before the war, he found his thorough knowledge of tractors useful in tank driving

The liberation by the Red Army of the first 85 kilometers of our frontier is an event of historic importance. A stubborn struggle still lies ahead of us, to clear the entire Soviet frontier from the Germans from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea. We know the enemy will not relinquish a single square meter of land voluntarily. He will have to be ejected. The Soviet family celebrates the brilliant victories

of the heroic Red Army, only the more to bend all its efforts to help it.

The news that the Red Army had reached the frontier of the USSR swept through our cities and villages like wildfire. In many places meetings and talks were held at which the working people of the Soviet Union expressed their admiration of the Red Army's heroic deeds. In a meeting held in one of the shops of the Stalin automobile plant in Moscow, Tarasova, a Stakhanovite, declared: "In token of our gratitude to the Red Army for having reached our frontier and having scored a big victory in the fight against the Hitlerite invaders, my brigade will stand a Stakhanov watch, and undertakes to overfulfil the output program every day." "March 26," said manager Vlasov, of the Artyom works in Kiev, "will go down as one of the happiest days in the annals of the great Patriotic War. The staff of our plant, rejoicing in the success of our glorious Soviet troops, will increase its aid to the front. We will fulfil the program of the first quarter ahead of time. Many workers of the shops and brigades are regularly exceeding their norms by 50 per cent and more." "Our hearts are filled with deep joy," declared mill-hand Khokhlova, at a meeting of textile workers in Ivanovo. "Only think, our troops have reached the frontier. In honor of this glorious victory each of us is prepared to work with thrice our former zeal and energy. All honor to our troops!"

The historic victories of the Red Army are inspiring the workers in the Soviet rear to new feats of labor in order to bring nearer the bright day of final victory over the German-fascist invaders.

All glory to our victorious Red Army!

Aircraft Model Building Popular

Twenty years ago the first aircraft models were constructed in the USSR. This pastime has now become extremely popular and widespread among Soviet youth. The first aircraft model builders' groups included the now celebrated plane designer Alexander Yakovlev, Deputy People's Commissar of the Aviation Industry; the famous fliers Mikhail Gromov and Alexander Molodchy—the latter twice Hero of the Soviet Union—and other prominent figures in Soviet aviation.

Young Soviet aircraft model builders hold 13 of 18 international records in contests of flying models. Thirty international records have been established in model building in the Soviet Union.

Since the outbreak of war, aircraft model construction has attained immense significance. Laboratories and courses for training instructors have been opened in many cities. The 15th All-Union contest of flying models will be held in 1945.

TORPEDO BOMBERS

By S. Valiavsky

Torpedo bombers play an important part in harassing enemy sea communications in the Soviet North. They have the advantage of speed over warships which are often unable to overtake or intercept an enemy convoy or ship spotted by air reconnaissance.

Of no less significance is the ability of a torpedo bomber to trail or discover the enemy from a long distance while the machine itself remains invisible, thus enabling the bomber to occupy an advantageous position without undue haste or hindrance. The attacks of the torpedo bomber, as compared with those of sea vessels, are as a rule unexpected and hardly ever leave the enemy time for preparation to ward off the blow.

The torpedo bomber is an even more formidable foe than the bomber. A bomb generally causes damage to the surface section of a vessel and the effect is not as disastrous as the explosion of the torpedo, which strikes the sub-surface section.

The pilot of a torpedo bomber must be imbued with special qualities: unerring judgment and fearlessness, combined with determination, courage and the sportsman's will to win an unequal battle against a stronger and better armed enemy.

On one occasion the pilots set out on their usual errand on a gloomy, rainy day. Clouds hung low and visibility was poor. Upon receiving information about an enemy convoy, Captains Alinskoy and Velichkin went in search of it. The German vessels had an escort of warships and were protected in the air by 14 fighters. Despite rain and clouds, Alinskoy and Velichkin located the targets and sank a transport and one of the escort vessels.

Torpedo bombers often have to operate where the coordination of bombers, Stormoviks, fighter planes and submarines is of the greatest significance. On one occasion several Soviet submarines were operating on a line of German sea communications. When the Soviet torpedo bomber command and bombing squadron received reports from reconnaissance pilots of the movements of enemy convoys along the Norwegian coast, they stood by, ready for action.

One enemy convoy and three transports, screened by two destroyers and one mine-sweeper, were spotted at 6:35 A. M. The convoy was moving from Kirkenes westward. A submarine attacked one transport, registering two torpedo hits. A three-hour pursuit of the submarine by the ship's escorts was fruitless. A little later this same convoy, minus one transport, was sighted by a Soviet reconnaissance plane. Two torpedo bombers screened by fighters

took off to deliver another blow at the convoy. At 12:43 P. M. they sank one transport and damaged a second, which was believed to have sunk. During the air battle the Soviet machines shot down one Junkers-88.

On the return flight Soviet machines spotted another convoy heading east, comprising eight to 10 transports under cover of seven to nine escorts. This convoy was also located and attacked by a Soviet submarine. Four torpedoes scored hits. One transport of 7,000 to 8,000 tons was definitely sunk, and one patrol boat was supposed to have been destroyed. The submarine did not see the result of this last action, since it was pursued for four hours by enemy escorts, which rained depth charges in its path.

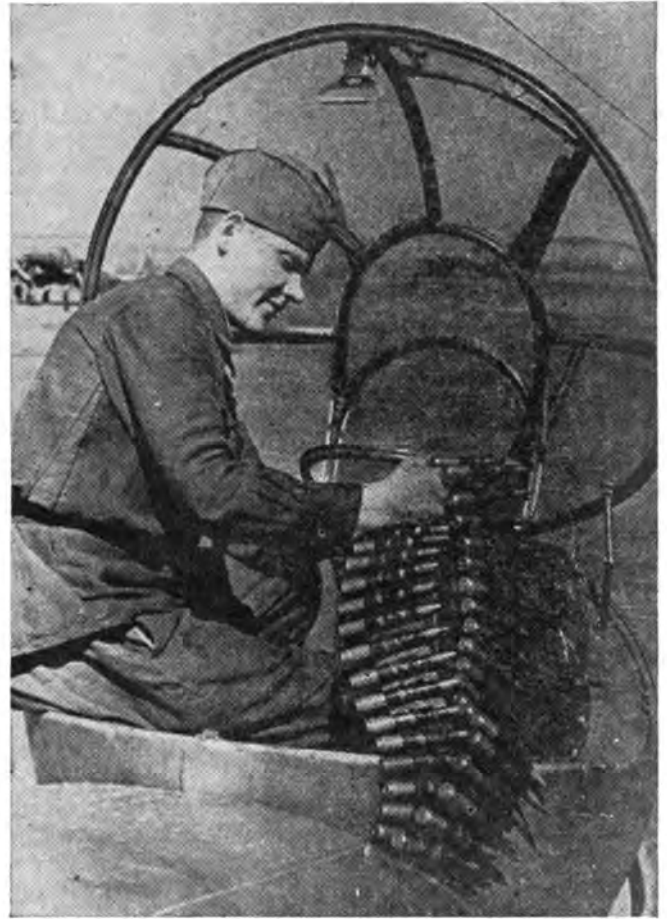
Eight Soviet bombers went up on the same errand. Engaged by enemy planes they could not see the result of the bombs, which fell five to six meters from one transport of 8,000 to 10,000 tons.

A second group of bombers which took off with the aim of dealing another blow to the convoy spotted a third convoy of three transports screened by two patrol boats. The bombers attacked and sank one transport of 4,000 to 5,000 tons. On the way back the bombers ran across two motor torpedo boats, and attacked them with cannon and machine-gun fire. One was sunk and the other sustained damage. The convoy was then attacked by three torpedo bombers, which sank one transport of 12,000 to 13,000 tons. Another transport was hit.

Other submarines also received reports regarding the movement of enemy convoys. One of these submarines located a convoy of two transports, one patrol boat and three sub-chasers, protected by planes. The submarine attacked, sinking one transport of 8,000 tons and another of 2,500 tons. After the attack, enemy escort ships pursued the submarine and dropped over a hundred depth bombs, but caused no damage.

Thus, due to well-organized reconnaissance it was possible to successfully coordinate the operations of submarines and aircraft on the enemy's sea routes, resulting in the destruction of seven transports and one patrol boat, not counting damaged and probably sunk vessels. In addition, one J-88 was shot down. The total number of ships sunk by torpedo bombers on the enemy's sea communications in some months of 1942 reached 20, totaling 120,000 tons displacement. Anti-aircraft fire, fighter planes, large numbers of escort ships and poor weather failed to protect German shipping from the blows of the torpedo bombers of the Northern Fleet.

DIVISION OF LONG-RANGE BOMBER COMMAND RECEIVES GUARDS BANNER



(Left) Colonel General A. Golovanov (in background) has just presented the Guards Banner to one of the Divisions of the Long-Range Bomber Command. Major General E. Loginov, kneeling, recites the Guards oath as he accepts the banner; (right) One of the planes of this Division has been loaded with bombs and fuel—now the armorer fills the machine-gun locker



The crew (left to right) Junior Guards Lieutenant Orlov, pilot; Senior Guards Sergeant Bazovkin, navigator; Sergeant Timofeyev, gunner-radioman



The plane taxis to the runway for the take-off. This crew has carried out bombing missions over Berlin, Koenigsberg, Danzig and Tilsit

KRIVOI ROG REBUILDS

The economy and industry of Krivoi Rog suffered enormous losses under the German occupation. The iron and steel works were completely destroyed by the routed Hitlerites, who blew up the blast furnaces and wrecked the central heating and power plant of the coking and chemical works. Part of the Krivoi Rog power station was destroyed, including the electro-mechanics shop, and the mines were rendered unworkable. About one and one-half million tons of iron ore were shipped to Germany. All metal parts in the plants and all mining equipment were blown up or broken in pieces and taken away as scrap for melting down in Germany.

Workers' dwellings were dynamited, the city polyclinic stripped of its equipment and the building destroyed. The printing works was burned down. The vandals plundered and then burned down the Mining and Pedagogical Institutes and a dozen high schools. The water mains were blown up, the bakeries burned. The Germans tried to sweep this great industrial city from the earth, to destroy its people.

About 40,000 civilians were put to death by the Gestapo; they were shot in gullies outside the town, near the coal pits and around the brick-kilns. Others were sent to Germany or left to rot in concentration camps. A large camp for war prisoners was set up in the military area. Here behind two rows of barbed-wire Red Army men and civilians were herded into dirty, ramshackle barracks. No medical help for the sick and wounded was available. Hunger,

festering wounds, and filthy rags giving no protection against the cold brought slow death to them.

The townspeople sought to escape from the German torture and forced labor in the mines, but the Nazis laid a trap for them. Evdokia Sergeyenko, an office employee of one of the coal mines, stated that the Germans ordered the entire population to appear at the office of the town commandant, where they were promised permits for residence in Krivoi Rog. When a large crowd had gathered, Nazi soldiers threw a cordon around it and drove all the people into the concentration camp.

In their retreat the Germans attempted to compel the male population between the ages of 13 and 60 to accompany them. Ivan Bulavka, a skilled worker of plant No. 60 of the iron and steel works, told Red Army men the Germans twice tried to drive him to Germany, but each time he managed to escape the bullets of the convoy guards. The last time he hid in a coal mine, where many of the townspeople found safety.

The Germans attempted to wipe the large industrial city of Krivoi Rog and its people from the earth. But the Red Army halted their savagery. And scarcely had the last shots died away when more than 10,000 citizens who had been in hiding began to rebuild their city, repairing the water mains, the bakeries, baths and other communal services first. Life and freedom have come back to Krivoi Rog.

Woman 'Stakhanov' of Soviet Agriculture

Everyone in the Soviet Union knows the Ukrainian woman collective farmer Maria Demchenko, whose sensational harvests of sugar beet in 1935 brought her and her girl co-workers an invitation to the Kremlin, where they were received by Stalin and by the leaders of the Soviet Government.

Stalin called them "heroines of labor." Maria and her friends were decorated with Soviet orders. Stalin asked Maria what she intended to do in the future. Maria replied "Study." Since then she has become to Soviet agriculture what Alexei Stakhanov is to the coal industry. Just before the war she promoted a Stakhanovite movement in agriculture. Already a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, she was enrolled as a student at the Kiev Agricultural College.

With the Kiev Agricultural College she evacuated to Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, at the beginning of the war. She is now a senior and next year will graduate as an agronomist. She has spent all her

wartime summer holidays working on the collective farm fields near Alma-Ata, and has helped the local farmers to get much increased yields of sugar beet.

Her studies take up eight to 10 hours of each day, but she regularly spends one hour each day with her electors—students, workers and collective farmers who come to her with various requests or seeking advice.

Coal Industry in 1944

The amount of capital construction this year for the development of the coal industry will be double that of 1943. The rate of construction of new mines is rising steadily. Over three million square feet of housing has been made available to coal miners. Another five million square feet will be provided this year in the eastern coalfields and the Moscow basin.



Children practice skiing in Lenin Hills, Moscow

Arctic Sports Festival

The biggest sports festival yet held in the Far North recently ended in Salekhard, district center of the Yamalo-Nenets National District. The sportsmen came from Omsk, Tobolsk and other Siberian towns, making a journey which took several weeks, as the town is over 1,200 miles from the nearest railway.

The events, which lasted three days, were seen by 2,000 spectators. The results were a triumph for the young athletes of the Arctic over their friends from more southerly Siberia. The youth of the Yamalo-Nenets district acquitted themselves brilliantly. The guests from Omsk, hitherto considered the best athletes in Siberia, lost every event in which they competed with the young people of the Arctic.

In light athletics Zyryan sportsmen and women, who have only learned the technique of sports in the past few years, were victorious. A Zyryan girl of 17 won the Siberian grenade-throwing championship, and another defeated the Siberian woman 800-meters champion, covering the distance in two minutes, 50 seconds.

The Northerners demonstrated the stamina culti-

vated in them from childhood by their whole mode of life under the difficult conditions of the Arctic. They finished a forced march over eight kilometers in 39 minutes, 30 seconds.

Fighter Pilot Avenges Poet

The Germans seemed to take especial pleasure in desecrating memorials of the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. The village of Mikhailovskoye and Trigorskoye, where he spent many years and created some of his best works, have been destroyed, and also his museum at Trigorskoye. The Germans buried some SS men at Svyatogorsky Monastery, beside Pushkin's grave. The commandant ordered the destruction of the famous Mikhailovsky Park, celebrated in verse by the poet.

Ivan Novikov, author of a biographical narrative of Pushkin, donated 100,000 rubles to build a fighter plane called Pushkin. The plane was handed over recently to a fighter pilot, Captain Barashev, who has already brought down nine Nazi bombers, four of them in a single day.

Notes from Front and Rear

Since the outbreak of war the railway troops and special formations under the People's Commissariat of Railways have restored more than 12,500 miles of track, large and medium bridges totaling over 70,000 yards in length, and 36,000 yards of small bridges. During the forcing of the Dnieper, pile-driver squads operating under incessant enemy fire drove double the scheduled number of piles per shift. The men spent days and nights at the work, refusing to rest or sleep. Many of the railway troops have distinguished themselves in battle. Zhararkan Zhabarkan, a Kazakh Hero of Socialist Labor, killed several dozen Germans. Another Hero of Socialist Labor, Sergeant Bizyukov, has decharged hundreds of enemy mines.

★

A 50-year-old woman doctor, known only as Z., works with one of the Soviet guerrilla units. With her is her eldest son, a fighter in the detachment.

★

More than three billion rubles have been allotted for Soviet vocational and factory apprentice schools in 1944. There will be a 20 per cent increase in the number of vocational schools and a 30 per cent increase in factory apprentice schools. Vocational schools have already been restored in the Leningrad, Tula and Rostov Regions and in the Stavropol territory, and 360 schools for training 170,000 students will soon be opened in nine liberated regions of the Ukraine and three Regions of the RSFSR. More than 80 schools are now functioning in the Stalino and Voroshilovgrad Regions and in the liberated area of Byelorussia.

★

A group of Armenian musicians and actors who recently visited Moscow gave a number of concerts, acquainting the Capital with some of the finest achievements of Armenian national art. The noted Armenian singer, Danielian, is currently appearing in the Moscow production of the opera IVAN SUSANIN.

★

Specialists from the Institute for the Utilization of Minerals are assisting the southern metallurgical plants. Brigades of Urals chemists and of other technicians from the Ukrainian Institute of Metals have assured the re-starting of the chemical laboratories in restored plants.

The first Chukchi to graduate from a Red Army officers' school was Serafim Chmyaka, now a captain. The little Chukchi nationality inhabits the northeast corner of Siberia, facing Alaska.

★

Soviet youth have collected nearly 50,000,000 rubles for the organization of children's homes and for individual aid to children of the liberated districts. Health centers serving 12,000 children of Red Army men were opened with funds collected by young people. Youth organizations also maintain 17 homes for children of Red Army officers and men killed in action. The boys and girls of the Moscow Region have been particularly active in raising money for this purpose.

★

Collective farms, factories, schools and other organizations continue the tradition of sending gifts to the Red Army. A group from Saratov sent silver watches, phonographs and tobacco; professors and teachers of Saratov University sent presents to the value of 10,000 rubles; collective farms sent tons of meat, sweet butter, sausages, eggs, chickens, and other farm products. On one small neatly-packed case an inscription in a child's careful hand read: "Gifts for the fighters of the Red Army from the Zarubetsk Children's home." The items were briefly listed: "Honey, Biscuits, Envelopes."

★

A Soviet scientific commission is now in Novosibirsk, organizing a Western Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Novosibirsk will become an important scientific center. The Academy will establish four institutes in the city—for chemistry and metallurgy, mining and geology, medicine and biology, and transport and power.

★

Many of the people seen in Rovno today wear the red ribbon of the guerrillas in their caps. Among these are Chairman of the Town Soviet Taratuta, and the editor of the Regional newspaper, Beskromny. The paper went underground at the time of the German occupation and never once missed publication. A number of the Rovno guerrillas joined the Red Army; those remaining in the city are restoring the public utilities and serving in the administration of their town.

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The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic

The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic covers an area of 34,000 square kilometers and has a population of 2,200,000. The capital, Kishinev (population 110,000), is situated in the extreme southwest of the USSR on the frontier of Rumania.

The Republic occupies a partly undulating but mainly level plain between the Prut and Dniester Rivers, extending somewhat beyond the latter river. Only in the midlands is the plain intersected by low hills covered with oak, beech and birch. The country is rich in building materials such as limestone, brick and clay, and sand for making glass.

Before the end of the First World War, Moldavia—the major part of which lies in Bessarabia—belonged to Russia, but Rumania seized the country up to the Dniester and forcibly Rumanianized it, causing a decline in its economy and culture. The area under cultivation to fruit, vines and tobacco diminished, and also the livestock. The industrial output also decreased, the number of workers employed in industry being reduced by 50 per cent.

During their occupation the Rumanians exterminated over 30,000 inhabitants, and over 300,000 were obliged to flee, escaping to the USSR and other coun-



Kishinev, capital of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic

tries. Wretched poverty and high mortality were the lot of the Bessarabian rural districts. Infant mortality among the peasants was as high as 60 per cent. Up to 60 per cent of the total population and 73 per cent of the peasants were illiterate. The Moldavian language and culture were banned, as were the languages and cultures of other nationalities inhabiting Moldavia.

On the opposite side of the Dniester, life was entirely different. Here, with the aid of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples, the Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was formed, and agriculture, industry and the Moldavian national culture advanced rapidly.

In June, 1940, the historic injustice of the annexation of Bessarabia by Rumania was erased. Bessarabia was restored to the Soviet Union. On August 2, 1940, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR granted the petition of the Moldavian people in Bessarabia to join with the people of the Moldavian Autonomous Republic to form a Soviet Socialist Republic, which received the status of a Union Republic.

Seventy per cent of the population of this Republic are Moldavians, the rest being Russians, Ukrainians and others. For the first time in their history the Moldavian people acquired a written language and their own national literature. The number of schools and other cultural institutions increased. The number of children attending school rose to one-half million. There were three higher educational institutions functioning: an Agricultural Institute and two higher pedagogical schools. Numerous technical schools were opened, with a combined attendance of 5,000 students.

Newspapers were published in the Moldavian and other languages. National theaters were established. Hospitals, dispensaries, maternity homes and children's nurseries were built.

The Moldavian peasants, formerly landless or almost so, received allotments to develop their husbandry. In Bessarabia alone the peasants received land amounting to a total of 200,000 hectares. The peasants of the newly affiliated region formed collective farms, and the fertile black earth between the Prut and the Dniester was cultivated with tractors and harvester combines.

New orchards and vineyards were planted, chiefly on the hillsides and in the adjacent valleys of the midlands. In Moldavia wine and other grapes were grown, as well as plums, apples, pears, apricots, peaches and walnuts. The vineyard area was increased to 100,000 hectares. Tomatoes, eggplant and marrows were grown to a great extent. Cereal crops also occupied an important place in Moldavian agriculture, and an extensive area was devoted to wheat, barley and maize. Sugar beet, tobacco and sunflower crops were also grown and the area under such cultivation steadily increased. Dairy farming

and hog and poultry breeding were also important. There was fishing in the Dniester and the Prut.

Industry was chiefly engaged in processing the country's agricultural produce. The most important branches were wine-making and meat-packing; the processing of natural fats, oil and flour; the manufacture of macaroni; fruit and vegetable canning, tobacco processing and distilling.

Stone quarrying and brick and tile manufacture were also developed. An oil refinery which had been standing idle for years under the Rumanian regime was restored by the Soviet Government, and measures were taken to develop the metal industry, which scarcely existed in the country.

The Rumanian-fascist clique which has turned that country into an obedient tool of Hitlerite Germany invaded and seized Moldavia. Bloody terror, national oppression and wretched poverty have again fallen to the lot of Moldavia. But the people have not resigned themselves to this fate. The fearless Moldavian guerrillas, backed by the entire Moldavian people, are striking telling blows at the Rumanian and German-fascist invaders, while the gallant Red Army is driving their oppressors from the land.

High Awards for Workers of Food Industry

For the second time in the past two years a number of workers of the food industry have been decorated by the Soviet Government for exemplary fulfillment of the Red Army supply assignments. The food factories are regularly exceeding their planned production, and it is estimated the output for 1944 will be 12 per cent higher than in 1943.

Production of food concentrates in the Soviet Union was initiated some years ago in an experimental plant at the Mikoyan factory in Moscow. Between 1939 and 1940 other plants were built, but large-scale development began only after the outbreak of war. Dozens of new factories were established throughout the country. In two and one-half years their production has quintupled. To date more than three billion concentrated rations have been shipped to the front. Over 20 new soup and cereal concentrates, some of the latter with dried fruits and jams added, have been developed.

In 1943 pre-cooked vegetable concentrates, requiring only water and heating, were produced, greatly enriching the Red Army's all-year vegetable rations. Nine large new plants have already turned out over a billion of these rations.

The successes of this young branch of the Soviet food industry are largely due to the efforts of A. Mikoyan, Vice Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR.

JEWISH GUERRILLAS FIGHT GERMANS

By Ovadi Savich

When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union, a certain Jewish youth, whose name must remain unknown until his guerrilla detachment joins the Red Army, was in his last semester at the Medical School of Minsk University. The young man's parents were ill and it was impossible for the family to leave Minsk. When the Germans entered the city they set up a ghetto for Jewish citizens and threw the youth and his family into it. Soon afterward his

signed to a veterinary surgeon, who put him to work as a stableman. He was now transferred to the ghetto at Vilnius. Knowing that sooner or later he would be killed, he fled with seven young friends, also "specialists." The young Jews escaped into the forests near Vilnius. Here they met a guerrilla, who gave them food. He said there were many Jews hiding in the forests.

The boys offered to join the guerrilla detachment but the commander reminded them that they had no guns. "Get yourselves some arms the way we did," he told them, "and you will be welcome."

The eight young men took his advice. Unarmed, they attacked two German soldiers on a highway and thus got their first tommy gun and rifle. Next they had to learn how to use the arms, for these "specialists" had been students and not soldiers. A guerrilla was assigned to instruct them and in 10 days the boys had learned to shoot and hurl grenades. It was the young medical student's idea that they should form a detachment of Jewish guerrillas. They were soon joined by 11 more refugees from the ghetto.

Within a month all the young men were armed. They began to carry out dangerous operations and their fame spread. Many Jews who had taken refuge in the forests sought them out and joined their ranks. To the usual guerrilla's oath, the commander had added these words: *As a son of the Jewish people, I vow always to remember all the sufferings which the Germans have inflicted on my people.*

From the Vilnius Region the detachment moved to the Pinsk district. There in the dense forests and marshes it is operating today, with more than 200 fighters. And it is no longer the only Jewish detachment.

As a rule, people do not escape from the ghetto—they die there. And to the Germans the Jewish guerrillas appear as spectres returned from the dead. They call these Jewish detachments "Refugees from the Ghetto." In their plan for the total extermination of the Jewish people, the Germans have murdered hundreds of thousands. But the "Refugees from the Ghetto" will live. Those who have vowed "always to remember all the sufferings," know the sole means of deliverance from these sufferings.



Soviet officials inspect mass grave of Jewish citizens murdered by the German invaders

mother died, and a few weeks later his father was arrested and shot. Within a short time the Hitlerites had massacred most of the Jews in Minsk, and the ghetto was closed.

As a medical student, the Jewish youth had been classified as a "specialist" by the Germans and as-

Daghestan's National Poet Honored

The national poet of Daghestan, Gamzat Tsadas, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his literary activities, has been awarded the Order of Lenin for outstanding services to literature.

Secret Mission

By Alexander Yakovlev

On March 10, 1943, a visitor came to the Kharkov city committee of the youth organization. He was a young man, a little above medium stature, slightly stooped, with clever, intelligent eyes deep-set in a pale, rather ill-looking face. He was evidently expected. The secretary of the city committee, a girl in military uniform, with short, flaxen hair, led him toward her office, closed the door and turned the key in the lock. Half an hour later the visitor took his leave.

"I hope we'll meet again soon," he said. "And if we don't, well . . ."

"No ifs about it," she interrupted him severely. "Of course we shall meet. But be careful."

On leaving the building, the young man glanced about him cautiously, then started off across the deserted square. Planes zoomed over Kharkov. Somewhere artillery was booming, and shells and bombs burst incessantly in the city.

* * *

The German commandant of the Kharkov railway junction was pleasantly surprised. The organization of the radio repair shop had been no trouble at all. He had not had to resort to threats, as he usually did, in order to get people to work in it. On the contrary, one of the local residents, a young fellow named Vladimir Konovalov, had voluntarily come to him and offered his services. According to inquiries made by the commandant, this Konovalov had worked in the past as a cinema operator at the railway station club, and later as an electrician.

The commandant was highly satisfied with his new worker, who not only knew his job, but did it brilliantly. A special shop was provided and equipped for him, and he was permitted to take on two assistants. He chose the mechanic Ivan Pasenko, a friend of his, and 14-year-old Vasili Pashkovsky.

* * *

Strange things had been going on for some time in Kharkov. Somehow the people were being kept well aware of the situation at the front. Almost daily, the communique of the Soviet Information Bureau was passed on by word of mouth. The railway workers were particularly well informed about the latest events on the other side of the front.

Then suddenly a Diesel engine supplying power to the railway junction went out of order. The nature of the damage left no room for doubt that it was deliberate sabotage. Eleven locomotives were dam-

aged. Important parts had been removed, and metal shavings put in. The auto-couplings on the freight cars often failed to work. And finally, one dark summer night, a huge fire broke out in an oil reservoir at an airdrome. It was clear that some sort of underground organization was at work. Mass arrests were made. The Gestapo seized workers and engineers, young people and old. But the sabotage continued.

* * *

Vladimir Konovalov was a model of diligence. When all the repair shops and offices closed for the day and the workers went home, he stayed on. His zeal struck the Germans as a bit suspicious, but Konovalov explained that he had wanted very much to please the Herr Oberleutnant, chief of the depot, and had stayed on in the evening to finish repairing his receiver.

And indeed, the Oberleutnant was well satisfied to get his receiver back next morning as good as new. Konovalov, on his way to return the repaired receiver to its owner, met a number of acquaintances on their way to work. They greeted him politely, and smiled. They recognized the receiver as the one on which they had heard the Moscow broadcast the evening before.

* * *

The German command could not but note the indisputable fact that Soviet planes bombing military objectives in the area of the railway junction were displaying exceptional accuracy. The suspicion that an underground radio station was signaling the Russians became a certainty. Furthermore, a passing German plane accidentally intercepted a radio message: it turned out to be a report that a new contingent of German troops had arrived at the station.

The Gestapo was called out. The trail led to the radio repair shop. One day they secretly searched the shop and Konovalov's living quarters. They discovered a radio transmitter.

* * *

On August 23, 1943, the committee of the youth organization returned to Kharkov with the Red Army. The secretary of the committee, the same girl in uniform, listened to a report from the trio sent out in March for underground work. Only two of the three reported: Victor Poyedintsev and Klavdia Samoilenko. The third, Vladimir Konovalov, had been shot by the Germans shortly before the Red Army liberated Kharkov.

WOMEN SCIENTISTS IN THE SOVIET UNION

By Professor Pankratova

Professor Pankratova, a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, has been awarded the title of Honored Scientific Worker and a Stalin Prize. During the war she has been engaged in writing a history of the peoples of the USSR, and a history of the USSR for Great Britain and the United States.

* * *

Soviet law accords women full equality with men "in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life." It also assures the widest opportunity for education, thus enabling women to take an active part in the building of their country. Soviet women are rapidly becoming specialists in various fields, and everywhere display enthusiasm, energy and initiative.

The role of women in the development of Soviet science increased greatly during the Stalin Five-Year Plans. Over 12,000 women took part in the work of scientific and research institutions in the USSR. Many thousands of women worked indefatigably in laboratories and libraries, combining research with work in production. Women shop superintendents, engineers and forewomen checked and improved their practical work in the light of the latest theoretical data.

Particularly intensive and fruitful work has been done by women in these years of the great Patriotic War. Women engineers, mechanics, chemists, physicists, physiologists, physicians and specialists in all branches of the humanitarian sciences are devoting all their abilities to the destruction of the disgrace of our epoch—fascism.

During the war the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has been drawing ever greater numbers of gifted young women into scientific work. There are 357 women with the degree of Doctor or Bachelor of Science in the scientific and research departments of the Academy. Including the junior scientific workers, assistants and laboratory technicians, the number of women in the Academy constitutes about 50 per cent of the total personnel. In individual departments the percentage of women is even higher.

Prior to the elections to the Academy of Sciences in 1939, there had not been a single woman member of that body. In February, 1939, one woman was elected to membership and four to corresponding memberships. In September, 1943, the Academy elected three additional corresponding members.

Academician Lina Stern, world-renowned scientist, Honored Scientific Worker and winner of a Stalin

Prize, heads the Scientific Research Institute of Physiology. She is the author of over 250 scientific works. In the war years she has worked with particular intensity; her investigations of shock and other war injuries have been invaluable in treating contusions and wounds. The methods of treating shock elaborated by Academician Stern are now widely applied in military hospitals.

Among the women corresponding members of the Academy is Podvysotskaya, an eminent specialist in dermatology and venereal disease. For her notable



Laboratory worker A. Guseva, post-graduate student of chemistry

services to science she has been awarded the Badge of Honor.

Corresponding Member Levina, Director of the Institute of World Economy and World Politics, has been working during the war on the economic problems of German imperialism.

One of the newly elected women corresponding members of the Academy is Trever, specialist in art studies and an outstanding expert on the Eastern collections of the Hermitage Museum, who has been studying questions of the ancient culture of the peoples of Central Asia. Andrianova-Perets is in charge of the Department of Ancient Literature of the Academy. Istrina is an authority on the Russian language and director of the Russian Department of the Institute of Language and Thought.

The rapid advance of women in science may be observed by reference to the various sections of the Academy of Sciences. Thus, there are 12 women with the degree of Doctor and 75 Bachelors of Science in the Biological Section; two Doctors and 57 Bachelors of Science in Chemistry, two Doctors and 21 aspirants for the Doctor's degree in the Physico-Mathematical Section; one Doctor and 29 aspirants in the Technical Section; six Doctors and 41 aspirants in the Science and Humanities Sections.

Among the women holding the degree of Doctor of Science in the field of the humanities are Professors Krachkovskaya, noted authority on the art of Iran; Nechkina, historian of Russian culture and social movements in Russia; Genkina, specialist on the Soviet period of Russian history, and others—each working strenuously in her own field.

The cadres of women scientists will be considerably increased in the next few years. In the National

Republics also, the number of women scientists is growing. Thirty-eight women with scientific degrees are working in the branches and bases of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. During the war some branches have been converted into independent academies—in 1943 branches of the Academy of Sciences were established in Armenia and Uzbekistan. It should also be noted that separate Academies of Sciences have existed in the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Georgia for some time. These institutions of the National Republics will undoubtedly accelerate the growth of national science in general, and of woman's part in it in particular.

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR is the center of the scientific life of the Soviet Union, but it is not the only center. Scientific and research work is conducted in other special academies and institutions: in the Lenin Agricultural Academy, the Academy of Architecture of the USSR, and in the departmental research and scientific institutes of all the higher educational establishments. In these various institutions women scientists occupy an honorable place. In Moscow State University more than 200 women work in the sciences, and 10 women are on the professorial staff. Among the latter are such eminent names as those of Sophia Yankovskaya, Doctor of Mathematical Science; Alexandra Glagoleva-Arkadyeva, Doctor of Physical Science, and Stoklitskaya-Tereshkovich, Doctor of Historical Science.

This brief review reveals the gigantic strides made by Soviet women toward the mastery of science.

Town Planning in the Ukraine

By Grigori Golovko

The author is head of the Department of Architecture of the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian Republic:

We are rebuilding Kiev's famous main street, the Kreschatik. It is to be much wider than before, and lined with big new blocks of flats and public buildings—the House of Trade Unions, a cinema and concert hall. Between the Kreschatik and Institutskaia street we shall have a new square opening on the Lipki District, the most picturesque and verdant part of Kiev. And we plan, too, to build an underground railway to the Dnieper.

Members of the Academy of Architecture, working in Kiev, are designing new types of dwellings for urban and country districts.

I have just visited Poltava. Before the war it was a charming town, a garden city, all its streets lined with chestnut trees, poplars and acacias. In its cen-

ter stands an old obelisk of glory, commemorating the first battle of Poltava and the victory of Peter the Great over Charles XII in 1709. Not far from it a new monument will be erected in honor of the Red Army's victory over the Germans in Poltava in 1943.

In Dnepropetrovsk the Germans pulled down the poet Shevchenko's bust from its pedestal. This was the first object restored after the city's liberation. Since then the restaurants, baths, laundries and transport services have been resumed. The university has reopened. The scientific research institute is functioning. Karl Marx Avenue is being replanted with trees.

We intend that the towns and villages wrecked by the Germans shall be beautiful and well ordered. We want the people who have endured the torments of German bondage to have pleasant homes in attractive surroundings.

Khadji Mukan and William Shakespeare

By Lina Voitlovskaya

Scattered through the steppes of Soviet Kazakhstan are settlements where the shepherds live with their families—just a few tents and an enclosure for cattle. In winter the encampment moves to the mountains, so that the animals may graze on the tall, juicy grass in the alpine meadows, where it is warm all the year round. Only rarely do these shepherd folk visit the large collective farms, and they hardly ever come to the towns.

And yet news travels to them almost as fast as it does by telegraph. The steppes have their own telegraph, the "long ear." When riders meet in the steppes they tell each other about the latest happenings in the nearest settlements, as well as in the towns, and announce the arrival of visitors. After exchanging news, the horsemen part, and as they meet new riders, they impart the news to them. That is the "long ear."

* * *

And that is how one remote steppe settlement got to know that Khadji Mukan, a great favorite of the steppes, a fascinating performer who is a fine actor, wrestler, juggler and singer all rolled into one, had arrived. The shepherds and their families assembled around the camp fires, over which were suspended kettles of "bish barmak," a national dish prepared from tender lamb.

In front of a tent a platform was raised and, with a flourish, Khadji Mukan appeared. Despite the intense heat, he abided by tradition, and wore a long, heavy velvet coat lined with fur. His bald head, which reflected the light of the camp fire, was crowned by an intricate structure of colored Oriental beads, glass balls and sticks. Blinking his narrow, merry eyes sunk in the fat of his face, he began his juggler's tricks.

Although old and corpulent, he manipulated with amazing skill a dizzy flight of balls and sticks, all the while crooning a merry tune. Suddenly with a loud cry he caught all the flying objects, and they disappeared into the pockets of his flowing robe.

A moment of tense silence. Then Mukan turned his attention to one of the most stolid members of his Kazakh audience, and engaged him in a dialogue packed with jokes and laughs, speaking for himself and for his abashed partner as well. From this dialogue the audience learned a good deal about current events and the latest political developments.

The show ended with the traditional wrestling match. Challenging the strongest among the audience to fight him, the old actor soon overpowered his op-

ponent. For the past 40 years there was never one who could get the better of Khadji Mukan in a wrestling match.

Jests, sharp retorts, all sorts of funny rhymes, humorous songs, conjuring tricks and wrestling are all included in the program of this one-man show. Khadji Mukan belongs to the old school of Kazakh entertainers. His like has almost entirely disappeared. Yet until 20 years ago this kind of archaic variety show was the only theatrical performance known in Kazakhstan.

Alas, with Khadji Mukan this peculiar one-man theater will probably sink into oblivion, to give supreme dominion to the professional theater, which has already made its appearance in the steppes.

* * *

Some time ago I saw a Kazakh professional theater entertain a small audience of shepherd folk in the wilds. With some companions I had been roaming through the steppes, tormented by the scorching heat and thirst. When we finally decided to put up for the night with nothing but the sky overhead, the glow of fires caught our eye in the the distance.

As we approached the camp, we were somewhat taken aback. On a small strip of ground encircled by camp fires a lady in medieval Italian costume and a handsome, stalwart young man were enacting a scene from a play.

They spoke Kazakh, which I don't understand. A sudden outburst of laughter from the audience piqued my curiosity. The woman's enticing appearance, the classic ring of her smooth-spoken, rhythmic speech, all seemed very familiar to me. In a moment I had recognized the elegant Kazakh actress and the youth. Shakespeare, of course! Katherine and Petruchio, from *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Such was the power of true poetry, such was Shakespeare's incomparable genius, such was the gift of the young actress that in the Kazakh steppes, 200 miles from Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, we followed with the greatest interest a comedy of genius in a language we could not understand.

* * *

Soon afterwards I met "Katherine"—Khadish Bukeyeva, Honored Artist of the Kazakh Republic. I had many talks with her, and was greatly impressed by the insight with which she pointed out flaws in her impersonation of Katherine. This Kazakh act-

(Continued on page eight)

The Professor and the Housewives

By Ivan Bondarenko

When Leningrad was cut off from the world by the German blockade, and medicines became very scarce, the city authorities sought the aid of the grandson of Augustin Monteverde, a Spanish architect who settled in Russia in the reign of Nikolai I. The son, Nikolai Augustinovich Monteverde, became a well-known botanist. The grandson, Professor Nikolai Nikolayevich Monteverde, of Leningrad University, has worked in the Botanical Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences for the past 30 years.

Besieged Leningrad asked him for medicinal drugs. He had no seeds, hothouses or implements. All Leningrad could give him was the aid of a dozen women weakened by hunger, and certain figures on a memorandum pad: so many hundreds of kilograms of digitalis, belladonna and valerian needed by winter for the soldiers defending Leningrad.

Monteverde wandered through the lanes of the botanical gardens, picking up pieces of glass from the broken hothouse panes. These he pasted into frames to make hotbeds.

Caretakers and Sailors Help

He called on all the caretakers in his district, asking for the loan of shovels so that his half-starved women helpers could work the earth. The crews of torpedo boats anchored near the islands lent him some buckets. The command went further—Red Navy men came to carry water for the garden from the Neva.

The most difficult task was to get the necessary seeds. Monteverde sent telegrams to Moscow, Tashkent, Novosibirsk. He scoured the local dispensaries and the deserted flats of his botanist friends who had been evacuated from Leningrad. He spent hours in the frozen, lifeless halls of the Main Herbarium, trying to find some forgotten seeds that might perhaps have survived.

The hotbeds were dug and seedlings planted in the finely turned soil; Red Navy men brought water regularly from the Neva, the July sun shone lavishly, and the earth put forth unusually large digitalis bushes. On the night of July 11 a German bomb fell on the precious little plantation. The crater was filled in and replanted with bushes from the reserve fund. In August a heavy German shell exploded near the same spot while the Professor and his helpers were working nearby. There were no victims, but the blast took eight rows of plants. In September another shell struck the garden.

Monteverde's plantations yielded a rich harvest. Pink and purple digitalis blossoms were cut from the bushes. The shiny black belladonna berries were gathered. The aromatic white roots of the valerian were freed of stems and soil. Then the Professor went calling. He visited every house in the Petrograd district, persuading the housewives to clear their attics. He wanted indoor space to dry his plants. The Professor was persuasive. Strong gusts of valerian assailed the nose as one walked through the back streets of the Petrograd district.

At first the leaves dried too slowly. Digitalis leaves should remain green when they dry, but Professor Monteverde's turned yellow. The Professor made dozens of experiments, consulted experts at the tobacco factory, and finally achieved success. School children, old people and housewives came to his aid. They cut open every vein in every leaf: hundreds of thousands of leaves were strung on separate threads and all remained green as they dried.

The harvest was collected and went to make life-saving powders, tinctures and medicines. And Professor Monteverde, who up to the war had published 50 scientific papers, has now started on his 51st: "The Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in the Conditions of Besieged Leningrad."

KHADJI MUKAN

(Continued from page seven)

ress speaks perfect Russian. When rehearsing her part she made a thorough study of all that had been written on Shakespeare in Russian.

She does not confine herself to playing in the Kazakh language. Like other Kazakh actors, she seized the opportunities presented by the evacuation to Alma-Ata of the Moscow Soviet Theater, headed by the well-known producer Yuri Zavadsky, and studied excerpts from Russian classical plays, mostly Ostrovsky, Chekhov and Ibsen. It is her dream to play the lead in *The Doll's House*.

Khadish Bukeyeva is preparing a program of recitations from Mayakovsky, which she renders in Russian with brilliance and dramatic power. She will present this program during her tours. A gifted actress, she is typical of the new Kazakh theater which has been created and is developing under the influence of Russian theatrical art.

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STATEMENT OF VYACHESLAV M. MOLOTOV

On the evening of April 2, the People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Molotov invited the representatives of the Soviet and foreign press and made the following statement on behalf of the Soviet Government:

As a result of a successful advance, the Red Army emerged on the Prut River, which forms the State frontier between the USSR and Rumania. This laid the beginning of the full reestablishment of the Soviet State frontier established in 1940 by a treaty between the Soviet Union and Rumania, which was treacherously violated in 1941 by the Rumanian government in alliance with Hitlerite Germany.

At present the Red Army is clearing Soviet territory of all enemy troops present on it, and the time is not far off when the entire Soviet frontier with

Rumania will be fully reestablished.

The Soviet Government announces that advancing Red Army troops, pursuing the German armies and their allies, the Rumanian troops, crossed the Prut River in several sectors and entered Rumanian territory.

The Supreme Command of the Red Army has ordered the advancing Soviet troops to pursue the enemy until he is routed and surrenders.

At the same time the Soviet Government declares that it does not pursue the purpose of acquiring any part of Rumanian territory or of changing the social system existing in Rumania, and that the entry of Soviet troops into Rumania is dictated exclusively by military necessity and by the continued resistance of enemy troops.



Mikhail I. Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, congratulates Chief Marshal of Aviation Alexander Novikov, who has been awarded the Order of Suvorov, First Class

RED ARMY VICTORIES IN PAST MONTH

From an editorial published in IZVESTIA on April 3:

The communique of the Soviet Information Bureau on the losses of the Germans and the trophies seized by troops of the First Ukrainian Front in the period from March 4 to 31, 1944, sums up the results of the past stage of operations on one of our fronts. One should consider these figures of the German losses to realize the full importance of this victory won by the Red Army in violent engagements.

The loss of more than 2,000 tanks in one month of fighting! Such a gap cannot easily be filled. And the losses in manpower—the Germans' most critical war materiel—are altogether irreparable. More than 183,000 Germans killed in one month on one front alone!

As a result of the vigorous offensive of Soviet troops, a large enemy group consisting of 15 divisions was surrounded in the Skala area, and now the remnants of this group are being finished off by Red Army troops. The Germans again found themselves in a "pocket," as was the case in the Korsun-Shevchenkovsky area, in Snigirevka, in the Bereznegovatoe area and in a number of other towns.

Simultaneously with these outstanding successes scored by the troops of the First Ukrainian Front, the troops of the adjoining Second Ukrainian Front routed very large German forces, emerged at the State frontier of the USSR on the Prut River, and

following in pursuit of the German armies and their allied Rumanian troops crossed the Prut River in several places and entered Rumanian territory.

The last communique of the Soviet Information Bureau on operations reports that having forced the Prut River in a number of sectors, the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front within several days captured more than 50 inhabited localities on Rumanian territory, cut the Jassy-Gorokhov railway and came within 13 kilometers of the large Rumanian town of Jassy.

At the same time the Soviet Government announced that it does not pursue the purpose of acquiring any part of Rumanian territory or of changing the social system existing in Rumania. The entry of Soviet troops into Rumanian territory is dictated exclusively by military necessity and by the continued resistance of enemy troops.

The tremendous defeats inflicted by the Red Army upon the Hitlerite troops on the First Ukrainian Front, the emergence of our troops on the Prut and the pursuit of the enemy beyond this river—such are the most important results of the Soviet offensive in the south within the past month. If to this one adds the emergence of such directions of the Soviet offensive in the south as Kishinev, Tiraspol and Odessa, the magnificent scope of the remarkable historic victories of our gallant Red Army becomes obvious.

Tactics of Air Blockade

By Lieutenant Colonel N. Denisov

Soviet airmen took an active part in the encirclement and annihilation of 10 German divisions in the Korsun-Shevchenkovsky area, carried out by Marshal Konev. In this area Soviet aviation accomplished a number of important tasks, one of which was the aerial blockade of the encircled district.

The first large-scale application of the tactics of air blockade occurred during the encirclement of von Paulus' army near Stalingrad. The experience accumulated in those battles was studied carefully by the Soviet air commanders, and corrections were made in methods.

The blockade in the Korsun-Shevchenkovsky area was effected chiefly by fighters, aided by some of the Stormoviks at the disposal of the Command on this sector. The fighters were mainly responsible for the interception of the German transport planes. They operated from airfields in the immediate vicinity of the foremost land units. The fighters' landing

grounds formed a peculiar sort of outer ring around the zone of encirclement, which was open to air attack from all sides.

But without the Stormoviks all this would have been only a half measure. The area of encirclement was rather large along its outer edge, and it would have been difficult for the fighters alone to control it in all directions. Operations were launched for the destruction of German transport planes on land. The attacks were directed both at bases outside the area of encirclement and at airdromes within the encircled area, and these attacks were supplemented by an almost incessant barrage of air patrols.

Thus the aerial blockade of the Korsun-Shevchenkovsky area was a double one—both internal and external. Not only did the Germans fail to get aid through to their surrounded troops; their efforts cost them 430 planes, in addition to those destroyed on the ground or seized intact.

FEATURES OF STALIN'S STRATEGY

By Major General Isayev

Correct appraisal of the political and military factors actuating the enemy's strategy play a large part in foreseeing it and preparing counter measures. For example, in the summer of 1943 the German command had to take revenge for the winter defeat, had to demonstrate, whatever the cost, the strength and capacity of the German army for offensive operations, and to postpone the headlong fall of Nazi prestige.

It was for these military and political reasons that the German command planned powerful blows in the Orel-Kursk and Belgorod-Kursk directions, with the aim of surrounding Soviet forces stationed in the bend below the Kursk bulge, and so being able to develop the attack further against Moscow.

The Soviet Supreme Command saw through the enemy plan and took all necessary measures.

On the night of July 4-5, Hitler's order was read out to the German soldiers. It said, among other things: "My soldiers, your victory must, more than ever before, strengthen the opinion throughout the world that all resistance to the German armed forces is futile."

Having lost the battle of the Kursk bulge and sustained enormous losses, the enemy, as at Moscow and Stalingrad, found himself at the critical moment without strategic reserves, while the Soviet Supreme Command, on the other hand, as was also the case in the Moscow and Stalingrad operations, had at the decisive moment and in the decisive place, powerful strategic reserves prepared for large-scale offensive operations.

To have reserves on hand where they are most required, and at the proper moment, is one of the most typical features of Stalin's skill as a leader of armies. The Soviet Supreme Command knows how

to plan, organize and carry out blows which constantly grow in power, knows how to develop one operation into another. The Red Army's operations grow one out of another, and grow in intensity, linked in one enormous plan of fighting over thousands of miles. It is the constant development of such blows at a number of points, on an ever-increasing scale, that characterizes Stalin's strategy.

The essence of Soviet operational skill is the masterly, direct transition from strategic defense to a general offensive with decisive and far-reaching aims. The application of this extremely difficult operational-strategic form on such a huge scale has no precedent in the warfare of the past.

In the battle for Moscow a stable, active defense was set up at the approaches to Moscow, and strategic reserves concentrated outside the place where the Germans were likely to make a tank encirclement, the calculation being that the Nazi tanks would fall into the Soviet pincers, which would be closed south and north of Moscow.

In the Stalingrad operation, on the assumption that the Red Army would go over to the offensive, a bridgehead was set up on the southern bank of the Don, northwest of Stalingrad, and one on the western bank of the Volga, south of Stalingrad. These bridgeheads, planned well in advance, proved of inestimable worth.

Favorable conditions for the transition last summer to a general offensive were created by holding the Kursk bulge. The offensive could not be started until the enemy had been bled white and exhausted; yet the opportunity could not be lost by delaying too long and giving the enemy time to collect himself. The choice of the correct moment for this transition from strategic defense to a strategic offensive truly required the eye of an eagle.

TRADITIONS OF SOVIET OFFICERS

When preparing for their treacherous attack on the Soviet State, Hitler and his bandit clique believed that the Red Army would not be able to offer serious resistance—among other reasons, because there were allegedly no experienced officers in its ranks. But the Hitlerite strategists miscalculated in this as in all other respects.

The enemy learned to his own cost the skill of Soviet officers, who have mastered Stalin's science of victory. Soviet military art, raised by Stalin to a level worthy of our great country, bore fruit in the major victories achieved by the Red Army.

Soviet officers are heirs to the Russian military cul-

ture which has gone down in the history of military art, and which brought forward such outstanding military leaders as Alexander Nevsky, Alexander Suvorov and Mikhail Kutuzov. In the military sphere, as in all spheres of human activity, all spheres of culture, the Government has developed and promoted everything most progressive. Red Army officers have proved more than once that they are able to put into effect the plans of the Command.

The people of the Soviet Union look with pride and hope at the Red Army, the liberator army. In its great mission an enormous part is played by the officers, disciples of the Stalin school of strategy and vehicles of this strategy.

Soviet Army Generals Commanding the Various Fronts of the Long Battle Line—From the Barents Sea to the Black Sea



**Army General Leonid
N. Govorov, Comman-
der of the Leningrad
Front**



**Army General Kirill A.
Meretskov, Commander
of the Volkhov Front**



**Army General Ivan
Bagramyan, Comman-
der of the First Baltic
Front**



**Army General M. M.
Popov, Commander of
the Second Baltic Front**



**Army General Kon-
stantin K. Rokossovsky,
Commander of the Bye-
lorussian Front**



**Army General Nikolai
F. Vatutin, Former Com-
mander of the First Uk-
rainian Front**



**Army General Rodion
Y. Malinovsky, Com-
mander of the Third Uk-
rainian Front**



**Army General Fedor I.
Tolbukhin, Commander
of the Fourth Ukrainian
Front**



MILITARY LEADERS OF USSR

MARSHALS OF THE SOVIET UNION



**Marshal Joseph V. Stalin, Supreme
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed
Forces of the USSR**

**Marshal Grigori K.
Zhukov, Present Com-
mander of the First
Ukrainian Front**

**Marshal Kliment E.
Voroshilov**

**Marshal Semyon
Budyenny**



**Marshal Semyon K.
Timoshenko**

**Marshal Alexander M.
Vasilevsky**

**Chief Marshal of Artil-
lery Nikolai N. Voronov**

**Marshal Ivan S. Konev,
Commander of the Sec-
ond Ukrainian Front**

Presentation of Dmitri Donskoi Tank Column to Red Army

By Metropolitan Nikolai

Member of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church

Some days ago there was a ceremonial presentation of the Dmitri Donskoi Tank Column to the Red Army. This tank column was built with funds donated by the orthodox clergy and congregation of the USSR. I was appointed by Patriarch Sergius to represent the Russian Church at the presentation.

Early in the morning of the memorable day I left Moscow by automobile and traveled to the armored unit which was to receive the tanks. I was warmly received by the High Command. The ceremony was to take place at noon, and shortly before that hour I was taken, with the representatives of the High Command and guests, to the wide field where the tanks were drawn up, each with the name "Dmitri Donskoi" painted in large letters on it. The crew of each tank stood beside its machine. The fighting vehicles with the long muzzles of their guns protruding gave an impression of grim and invincible force.

We ascended a rostrum decorated with flags and portraits of the leader of the Soviet peoples, Marshal Stalin. Karpov, Chairman of the Committee on Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church, members of the High Command, the representative of the Commissariat of Defense of the USSR and the commanders of the tank units stood beside me. I spoke to the tankmen as follows:

"Dear brother fighters in the ranks of our glorious Red Army, I bring you greetings, gifts and blessings from the Holy Russian Orthodox Church and its head, Patriarch Sergius, whose call to the congregation of the Russian Church brought forth the funds to build this tank column. It gives me great happiness to be able to tell you that the days in which we collected funds for this sacred cause were a great festival for the entire Russian Orthodox Church. She takes pride now in the thought that the Dmitri Donskoi Tank Column will do its part in crushing the hordes of German bandits who have invaded our country.

"On behalf of Patriarch Sergius, and from the depths of my heart, I say to you, beloved warrior brethren: May the Lord be with you in the holy cause of the defense of our country! May these fighting machines driven by your stern will to victory bring vengeance and death upon the fascist butchers who have drenched the sacred soil of our country in blood, upon these children of Satan, these enemies of the culture and happiness of the people, these foes of mankind unworthy to live on this earth!

"It is our earnest prayer that our arms may

emerge victorious from the conflagration. Our faith in the final triumph of freedom, truth and peace; our faith in a speedy victory over the dark forces of fascism, is unshakable.

"Forward, warriors! Sweep this impious horde from our soil. Bring back to us the peaceful life and happiness of our people. In the name of our sacred cause, forward!"

The officers of the tank units in words ringing with patriotic enthusiasm assured the clergy and all the Russian Orthodox congregation they would not put aside their arms until the foe is driven from our soil.

After the meeting and the ceremony conferring the regimental colors, I gave the crews the technical passports for their machines. The commander of each tank stepped forward to report as I came to him, and I said a few words of good wishes as I handed him the passport.

At the end of the ceremony I spoke again, wishing many long years of good health to our leader, Joseph Stalin—to which the crews returned a thrice-repeated "Hurrah!" while the bugles played a fanfare. The tanks then passed in review and we extended the warmest greetings to our splendid tank drivers, whose rugged faces expressed invincible determination and will to victory.

Filled with admiration for our military might, I then went to the Officers' Club, where I presented gifts from the Russian Church to officers and men of the tank units.

On receiving the news of the presentation of the tank column to the Red Army, the clergy and congregation of the Russian Orthodox Church expressed their deepest satisfaction and joy. We are now even more determined to place on the altar of our beloved country any sacrifice which may be necessary to insure final victory over the foe.

Stalingrad on the Stage

A new play, *The Boatwoman*, has recently been completed by the dramatist Pogodin. It is dedicated to the Russian people, heroes of the Stalingrad saga. The action takes place on the left bank of the Volga, and the heroine is a young Russian patriot, Shura, who worked as a boatwoman on a ferry.

The Tragedy of Novgorod

By Mikhail Dolgoplov

Novgorod holds an outstanding place in the history of Russia. It is the cradle of Russian culture and Russian statehood. One of the factors which contributed to Novgorod's world-wide fame was the great number of remarkable monuments that came down to us through the ages practically intact. The Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences has a special Novgorod section, devoted wholly to the study of the city. It is enough to say that 60,000

ments, ransacked the museums and shipped the most valuable exhibits to Germany.

I visited Novgorod shortly after the Nazi invaders had been driven out. The state to which the Germans had reduced its splendid old buildings was appalling. The beautiful Church of Our Savior of Nereditsa, built in 1198, lies in ruins. Its remarkably preserved frescoes were considered the best found up to the 15th Century, either in Russia or Byzantium. The Nereditsa frescoes were not unlike those of the 12th Century frescoes in Kiev, and indicated that Russian artists of the time had attained an extremely high degree of proficiency.

The Hitlerite vandals mutilated the Novgorod Kremlin castle which since the 9th Century had been the center of political and cultural life in the State of Novgorod. It is in the Kremlin that the popular assembly, called the Veche, used to sit. The Kremlin was also the heart of the military power of old Russia in her incessant struggle for independence. The Novgorod Kremlin has suffered greatly from enemy artillery bombardments and air attacks. The walls and upper part of the northeastern corner of the ancient watch-tower of Kokuy were demolished. The Germans wrecked the roofs of five towers. They blasted a hole in the Arch of Vladimir tower, which had been restored by the Soviet Government shortly before the war, made a latrine over the passageway and turned the bottom of the tower into a cesspool.

The Hitlerites wrecked and defiled the 15th and 17th Century buildings inside the Kremlin. The palace known as Granovitaya Palata, where in ancient times the Council of Nobles sat, where trials were held and ambassadors and grand dukes from Moscow were received, was turned into a drinking den. This palace was built several centuries ago. A massive stone pillar rises in the middle of the main hall and from it spring four arches and four cross-arch vaults. The Germans covered the old paintings on the walls of Granovitaya Palata with a coat of vulgar yellow paint. In a corner they constructed a wooden platform for a jazz orchestra. In neighboring rooms I saw piles of wine bottles.

Another old building inside the walls of the Kremlin, lately occupied by the Novgorod Museum of Russian Art, was turned into a stable by the Germans. They covered the exhibition rooms with filth, smashed the decorative tiles of the big Dutch stoves and in many places burned the floors. The forge shop of the German Major General Wilkes' division had been set up in the Museum of History. I saw piles of coal lying beside the primitive forges the



This church in the village of Bashmakovka, Moscow Region, was wrecked by the Germans

different publications on Novgorod have appeared to date.

For 29 months the Germans held the city. In their hatred for everything Russian and everything Slavic they savagely demolished the ancient monu-

Germans used. A room in the old building was turned into a bath; a big iron basin still hangs on the wall. The floors of neighboring rooms are covered with scraps of leather, straw, broken iron beds, smashed museum furniture and a fantastic number of empty bottles.

The Germans seriously damaged and plundered the Cathedral of St. Sophia, the pride of Novgorod, erected during 1045-52. The Cathedral was one of the oldest and most impressive monuments of Russian architecture. Before the war it contained 12th Century frescoes and 12th and 15th Century icons, and was a veritable treasure-house of old Russian art. The Cathedral suffered greatly in the fierce German air attacks and bombardments on August 1, 1941. All relics and interior decorations have been stolen. The Nazis pulled all the gilded crosses from the cupolas and tore the gilded roofing off the main dome. According to orders received from Major General Wilkes, part of the gold was used to make trays, goblets and a tea-set for him.

The Germans knew that in ancient times Novgorod princes and bishops were buried under the floor of the Cathedral, with their crosses and precious jewels. In their search for these treasures, the Hitlerites tore up the flagstones and desecrated the graves. The remains of the Novgorod princes and archbishops have disappeared. The Nazi ghouls removed them with their robes and valuables. They stole the chandelier presented to the church in the latter part of the 16th Century by Boris Godunov, and carried off a 14th Century stone cross from the western wall of the Cathedral.

The cultural development of Russia in the earliest period of its existence was vividly expressed in the history of Novgorod. The Germans in their rage tried to destroy all the great monuments to Russia's glory, her power and her national statehood. One such monument was a memorial erected in Kremlin Square in 1862, on the occasion of the one-thousandth anniversary of the founding of the Russian State.

Atop an enormous bronze ball, in front of a cross held by an angel, was the figure of a kneeling woman, an allegorical representation of Russia. Around the bronze ball six main groups were placed, illustrating the main phases of Russian history from Ryurik to Peter I. On the base in high relief were the figures of outstanding Russians: Ivan Susanin, Kuzma Minin, Dmitri Pozharsky and others. The monument was 15 meters high and 10 meters in diameter. The Germans took down the huge bronze figures, numbered them and prepared them for shipment to Germany. When routed by the Red Army they left the partially mutilated figures lying in the snow.

No words can describe the extent of the German destruction during their occupation of Novgorod. The demolition and plunder of public monuments, extermination of Soviet civilians or their forced shipment to Germany, was all part of a general plan worked out beforehand by the German command and obediently put into effect by the rank-and-file Nazi bandits. The bloody crimes of the Nazis on Russian soil are horrible enough to brand the Germans with shame unto eternity. Mankind will never exonerate them; they will forever be stigmatized for their infamy.

MONUMENT TO KUZMA MININ

By Mikhail Polonsky

The people of Gorky marked the 26th anniversary of the Revolution by unveiling a monument to the memory of their noble ancestor, Kuzma Minin. Kuzma Minin was a butcher in the city of Nizhni Novgorod (now Gorky). In 1612 when foreign troops invaded Russia and seized Moscow, he organized and led a people's levy and together with the talented captain Prince Igor Pozharsky, liberated the capital from the invaders.

On November 7, Gorky citizens assembled in Minin and Pozharsky Square, on the high bank overlooking the Volga, for a holiday demonstration. At noon the red bunting was drawn aside from the 30-foot high monument. Music filled the square and the spectators beheld the majestic figure of Kuzma

Minin, hero of Russia, beloved son of ancient Nizhni-Novgorod. The sculptor had represented him appealing to the people. The wind plays with the long strands of his beard and with the skirt of his tunic. His right hand is outstretched, calling upon the people's army to defend Moscow and their country.

In this very square, beside these Kremlin walls, the folk of Nizhni-Novgorod saw Kuzma Minin 331 years ago, not cast in bronze but in flesh and blood, and heard his passionate words.

The name of this great citizen has become a symbol for his descendants, inspiring them in their titanic struggle against Hitler's army.

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Spring in Moldavia

By D. Vetrov

Spring in Moldavia means that the buds are already swelling on the apple and apricot trees. Before many days the orchards will be a mass of snowy bloom. The earth and the people are awakening. The first spring thunder merges with the thunder of artillery, which grows louder each day.

Like the floods of spring the Red Army surges through the Moldavian land, sweeping away the invaders. Several hundred inhabited places have been set free. Dark Moldavian women offer earthen pitchers filled with cold well water to Red Army men; gray-bearded elders bless their liberators; children press their cheeks trustingly against the cheeks

of unshaven warriors. Crowds line the roads, waving handkerchiefs and cheering.

"Welcome!" they shout. The soldiers smile in reply, refresh themselves with a draft of cold water, wipe the perspiration from their faces and march on. They are eagerly awaited in suffering Kishinev. Orbeyev must be set free, Bendery is also waiting. So the Red Army marches on, along the broad highways of Bessarabia.

It reminds the soldiers somewhat of that memorable June in 1940, when the Moldavian people greeted their liberators with the same joy. After long years of oppression the sun of freedom had



An old Kuban Cossack instructs the youth in the use of the saber

risen over Bessarabia. The Moldavian people always fought stubbornly for their freedom. The struggle lasted for centuries, and the Russian people aided them.

By the Peace of Bucharest, signed in 1812, Bessarabia passed to Russia, and the Moldavian people's destiny was finally united with that of the Russians and Ukrainians. After the Revolution, in 1919 the Rumanians, taking advantage of the difficult war situation in the young Soviet Republic, seized flourishing Bessarabia and the western part of Moldavia. That was the beginning of a continuous struggle against the invader. The people revolted 200 times in the first 10 years, and the Tatarbunary rising echoed throughout the world.

These risings were suppressed with frightful cruelty by the Rumanians, who tortured the freedom-loving Moldavians, shot them and buried them alive. But still the people would not give in; they continued to revolt against their oppressors.

At last the long-awaited day of liberation dawned. One sunny June morning in 1940 the Red Army set foot on its soil, and Bessarabia was restored to the Soviet Union. There was great rejoicing among the people of Bessarabia, awakened to new life.

But only for a year. Then the stifling black night again descended upon Moldavia. Invasion and occupation by both Germans and Rumanians followed. But if the Moldavians had struggled in the old days against the invaders, now after tasting the joy of being free Soviet people they determined to fight for their happiness to the end.

In July, 1941 the dissipated and degenerate Rumanian gendarmes reappeared in the streets of the Moldavian villages and instituted a reign of bloody terror. Rumanian officers ordered their soldiers to kill and rob the Moldavians in the name of a "greater Moldavia." Lieutenant Militaru Dumitru gave orders that on reaching Soviet territory the soldiers should shoot all civilians who seemed suspicious, and that they would not be punished. Pillage and atrocities followed, and Moldavian blood flowed freely. The Rumanian hangmen were as cruel as the Germans. They drowned in blood the once flowering gardens of Bessarabia, leveled towns and villages to the ground, burned libraries, schools and museums.

In Redoya village, Beltsky district, Captain Nikulescu arrested a family consisting of two old people, their daughter and her husband and three small children. After mocking and ill-treating all of them for some time, the Captain shot the old man before their eyes, then one after another the rest of the family, until only the four-year-old child was left. He burst out crying, and Lieutenant Cheban, another Rumanian officer, took the little boy's chin between his fingers and thumb, pressed a revolver to his head

and fired. Thus did the inhuman brutes who wore German and Rumanian uniforms deal with the Moldavian population.

The occupation troops robbed Bessarabia of everything they could take away. Only recently they requisitioned 14,000 head of horned cattle, 25,000 horses and all the grain. Now the Rumanian invaders are hastily exporting the equipment of factories and plants from Kishinev, Tiraspol and other Moldavian towns.

But in proportion to the fascist fierceness, the struggle against the accursed invaders gained impetus. The Moldavians organized guerrilla detachments in the occupied areas and derailed enemy trains, wiped out Rumanian and German garrisons and burned munitions dumps. In his report to the chief of the Rumanian general staff, General Mazarini wrote: "In practically all occupied places detachments formed from the local population sympathetic to the Soviets are carrying on a struggle against the Rumanian army, creating disorder and committing acts of sabotage. These detachments attack troops in the rear, bombard columns, entrap scouts and destroy small parties of soldiers."

The Soviet Government has conferred the title of Hero of the Soviet Union upon two Moldavian guerrillas, one of whom is only 20 years of age. In three months young Nikolai Frolov's detachment derailed 14 enemy troop trains. Ten of these were mined by Frolov himself, and a total of 3,000 Germans destroyed. The other guerrilla Hero of the Soviet Union is Vasili Timoshchuk, who was a station-master in Soviet Moldavia before the war. After the German and Rumanian occupation he worked as a switchman. On August 4 he wrecked a train and a few days afterward another. Forced to go into hiding, he organized a guerrilla detachment which wrecked another 11 troop trains, blew up two bridges and burned a fuel train.

The sons and daughters of the Moldavian people are fighting side by side. The Rumanian gendarmes caught guerrilla Maria R. distributing the communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau to the peasants, who thus learned of the Red Army's advance. The Kishinev girl was subjected to frightful tortures, but remained silent. When a noose was placed around her neck she said to the hangmen, "Another girl will take my place!"

Insane terror has seized the Rumanian gangsters. They realize they can hope for nothing more from the "invincible" Germans. Hitler promised them his troops would not let the Russians advance beyond the Bug. But the Red Army has already crossed the Prut. The Rumanian invaders are flying from Bessarabia in panic. The joyful day is very near when the Moldavian native land will be set free and Bessarabia's true springtime will begin.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF WESTERN UKRAINE AND WESTERN BYELORUSSIA

By N. Baltisky

The following article appeared in a recent issue of the Soviet publication WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS:

In the autumn of 1939 the National Assemblies of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia petitioned the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to incorporate their territories into the USSR and to reunite them with the Ukrainian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR respectively. And there cannot be the slightest doubt that this was a true application of the right of nations to self-determination in its genuine form.

The Polish reactionaries perfidiously attempted to prove that the Red Army imposed the decision to join the Soviet Union upon the inhabitants of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia. Actually the Red Army gave the inhabitants of these territories the opportunity to freely determine their own destiny. The Polish central authority fell to pieces before the Red Army's arrival; the government fled and left the country at the mercy of the German invaders. Had not the Soviet Government intervened at the time by sending the Red Army to aid the fraternal peoples of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, these territories would have fallen into Hitler's clutches immediately. There is no little disinterested evidence, provided by foreign eye-witnesses, of how enthusiastically the inhabitants of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia welcomed the Red Army, their liberator.

The Polish magnates and their flunkies, of course, attempt to question the democratic nature of the elections held in October, 1939 in which the inhabitants of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia determined their own destiny, but the incontrovertible facts are as follows:

First, in these elections all men and women of the age of 18 and over, irrespective of race, nationality, religion, social origin, property status or former occupation, enjoyed the right to vote. Thanks to this, the number of registered voters was far higher than at any preceding elections (in which the age qualification was at first 21, and later 25). The elections were conducted in constituencies of about 5,000 inhabitants, each constituency electing to the National Assembly one deputy, whose election required an absolute majority of votes cast by secret ballot.

Second, in the Western Ukraine 93 per cent of the electorate (4,433,997 from a total of 4,766,275) went to the polls, and in Western Byelorussia 96.7 per cent (2,672,280 from a total of 2,763,191). This fact is also evidence of the democratic nature of the elections. The newspapers at the time quoted numerous

examples showing that even the landed nobility, factory owners, etc., enjoyed and exercised the right to vote.

Third, the candidates who were nominated by public organizations and were in favor of joining the Soviet Union obtained 4,320,154 votes, or 90.9 per cent of the total, in the Western Ukraine, and 2,409,522 votes, or 90.7 per cent of the total, in Western Byelorussia. Thus the vote of the opponents, together with spoiled ballots, amounted to only about nine per cent of all the votes cast.

Indeed, can there be any doubt that the representatives of the people elected in this democratic manner really reflect the will of the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia?

The question of seceding from Poland and rejoining their kinsmen in the Soviet Republics was discussed in the course of the three weeks' election campaign with the most lively interest at numerous meetings of workers, peasants and intellectuals. The elected deputies who gathered at the National Assemblies of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia in October, 1939 unanimously decided to petition the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to incorporate their territories with the USSR and to reunite them with the Ukrainian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR respectively.

Was this not a democratic plebiscite in the fullest sense of the word? Let the Polish reactionaries try to answer the question: Where, when and in what part of the world has an oppressed nation ever expressed its will to abolish its fortuitously imposed subjection to alien rule in a more democratic manner? Thus the decision of the National Assemblies of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, and also the decision of the Extraordinary Fifth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, in the main remain unimpeachable. The Ukrainian and Byelorussian inhabitants of Poland at that time exercised the democratic right of nations to self-determination and decided to reunite their respective territories, which the Poles had usurped in 1920, with the territories of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian peoples. Since the Supreme Soviet of the USSR ratified this expression of the will of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian population and gave it constitutional sanction, this part of the question must be regarded as closed.

The only question that may be reconsidered is that of finally determining the line of the Soviet-Polish frontier. On this question the Soviet Government on

January 11, 1944 issued a statement to the effect that it did not regard the Soviet-Polish frontier of 1939 as final and that by agreement with the Soviet Union this frontier could be altered in favor of Poland, by transferring to that country those districts in which the Polish population predominates. In that case, the Soviet Government stated, the Soviet-Polish frontier could run approximately along the so-called Curzon line, which was adopted in 1919 by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers.

This proposal of the Soviet Government for the final solution of the Soviet-Polish frontier problem is further striking proof of the just, high-principled and genuinely democratic character of the national policy consistently pursued by the Soviet Government, which recognizes the right of nations to self-determination and the desire for a stable peace and durable friendly collaboration among nations.

What are the main advantages of the Soviet Government's new proposal? While preserving in full force the reunion with the USSR of the territories of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian population, it at the same time provides for a just solution of the problem in those districts in which Polish inhabitants predominate. In the autumn of 1939 it was impossible to separate these districts from the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, which were being incorporated into the USSR, for this would have meant throwing them into the clutches of the Hitlerites. That is why the majority of even the Polish inhabitants of those districts did not wish to be separated.

Now, however, when real prospects for the liberation and regeneration of Poland have arisen, the situation is different. Now the question of transferring these districts to Poland may be discussed.

For us, the Soviet peoples, the Soviet Government's proposal is valuable as embodying a principle. The right of nations to self-determination and national unification is one of the principles of the Constitution of the Soviet Union. No other multi-national State had either the desire or the courage to inscribe in its constitution the principle that every nation constituting that State enjoys the right to free secession. Our Stalin Constitution contains this principle and we are proud of it; and this, far from weakening, strengthens still further the indestructible unity of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Respecting the right of Soviet peoples to self-determination, we also recognize and respect the right of other nations to self-determination and national unity. And since certain districts in which the Polish population predominates have been incorporated within our western frontier, we welcome the readiness expressed by the Soviet Government to give these Polish districts the opportunity to rejoin Poland. We regard this as another magnificent expression of the Lenin and Stalin national policy pursued by our Government.

Furthermore, the Soviet Government's statement makes provision for the expansion of Poland's frontiers by restoring to Poland the ancient territories of that country which Germany had annexed in the past, and without which the unification of the whole Polish people within their State is impossible.

Clearly the agreement regarding the final determination of the Soviet-Polish frontier, based on the Soviet Government's proposals, would create exceptionally favorable conditions for the establishing of a stable and permanent friendship between the Polish people and the neighboring Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Russian peoples. Grounds for friction over territorial questions would disappear once and for all. Nothing would prevent the peoples of Poland and the Soviet Union from uniting forthwith in the struggle against the common foreign foe—Hitler Germany; and this is dictated by the interests of both countries and the common cause of all the Allies.

It is quite obvious that if the present Polish government really wished to reach a final settlement of the controversial questions and to establish friendship between Poland and the Soviet Union, and if it really desired to wage a joint struggle against the Germans, it would without a moment's hesitation declare its readiness to accept the Soviet Government's proposal. The whole point is that it desires neither the one nor the other.

An examination of the facts will show what the Polish government wants and what it does not want.

Have the Polish Squires Abandoned Their Chauvinism and Their Predatory Designs?

If we ask ourselves why the present Polish government is opposed to settling the question of the Soviet-Polish frontier on such a reasonable and just basis, we will find that its immediate motive is that it champions the material interest of the big "border" landowners, the Radziwills, Sapiehas, Potockis and others, who own vast latifundia in the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia. It sets the selfish interests of this handful of princes and counts higher than the common national interests of Poland. This "secret" has even been disclosed in the foreign press.

But this does not yet fully explain the uncompromising position held by the emigre Polish government and its supporters. The Polish reactionary government would in any case insure a privileged material position for their precious Radziwills and Potockis in one way or another. Hence the root of the evil must lie deeper. Where is it?

Anybody who has followed the discussion of the Polish question in the columns of the foreign press could not have failed to note the following circumstances: When well-intentioned but rather naive writers try to prove to the Polish reactionaries that

wise and moderate conduct on their part would put an end to the controversies between Poland and the Soviet Union, it is precisely this plea that rouses the ire of the Polish ruling clique most of all. In this respect these Polish squires remind one of the grasping lawyers of olden days, who deliberately dragged out litigation over inheritances for years and even decades for the sake of the fees; it used to be said that such lawyers tried to convert such litigation into "life pensions" for themselves.

Evidently the Polish reactionaries have an interest in endlessly dragging out the controversy with the Soviet Union; it provides them with a political life pension. After all they have no other ideological and political capital, if one may say so, except their anti-Soviet chauvinism. This is the source of their political livelihood. Without this glue they would have nothing with which to stick together the political combinations and coalitions which they need for the purpose of retaining governmental power; and this is far more important to them than the national and political interests of Poland. This is the root of the evil.

Reading the Polish newspapers closely connected with the emigre government, one gets the impression that they are in constant dread that their readers may grow weary of anti-Soviet slander and cease to hold aloof from the Soviet peoples. That is why these newspapers constantly try to dope their readers with the drug of anti-Soviet chauvinism. The newspapers which are secretly distributed in Poland and directed from the London center are particularly zealous in stirring up enmity. It is extremely characteristic that in the early part of 1943, when the historic victories of the Red Army in the region of Stalingrad, the North Caucasus and the Don area, roused the admiration of all freedom-loving peoples, the underground Pilsudski organizations in Poland, which stand close to the Polish emigre government, launched a scurrilous anti-Soviet campaign.

The *Panstwo Polske* wrote: "The essential condition for our victory and our very existence is at least the enfeeblement if not the defeat of Russia."

The Polish gentlemen deem it essential to inject anti-Soviet dope into the veins of the readers of their newspapers in Poland. To enhance the effect of this dope they advocate far-reaching plans for the usurpation of Soviet territory. While the diplomats of the emigre government talk only about preserving the frontier laid down by the Treaty of Riga, the *Rzecz Pospolita Polska*, official organ of this government's representation in Poland says: "The line of our eastern frontier as laid down by the Treaty of Riga is the minimum of our aims in the east."

In another article (published in February, 1942), the same newspaper quite definitely indicated the direction of their usurpatory designs by stating: "In

the east, the regions of the Dvina and the Dnieper, natural geographical and strategical frontiers of Poland, lie far outside her territory."

These are only a few examples; numerous other arrogant effusions of this kind could be quoted. They testify firstly to the fact that there is not only a German but also a Polish "Drang nach Osten" (drive to the East); and secondly that the Polish squires even in their present position, practically without state power, cannot refrain from betraying their ferocious though toothless imperialism. They are shouting about this today even more vociferously than before 1939, before Poland's military debacle. Ordinary mortals usually lose their power of speech when suffering from severe shock; the Polish squires have lost the power to dream in silence.

Thus Tadeusz Bielecki, one of the most prominent members of the official "national council," wrote a program in an article entitled "Greater Poland—Center of Middle Europe," in which he demanded that the Soviet Union should be deprived of the power to influence European affairs insofar as, according to Bielecki, it is not a "European power." (*Mysl Polska*, February 20, 1942).

Grabski, president of this "national council," though trying to write in a more moderate tone, cannot, however, curb his fantasy and belches forth the following rodomontade:

"We must abandon high-falutin phrases about becoming a great power, but we must not abandon the realistic great power of politics. We must build up the necessary military might which will be capable of repelling attacks of any neighbor, in order to assure Poland a position in the international arena commensurate with her historical role in Middle and Eastern Europe," etc.

What is this? Megalomania, adventurism or quixotism? At all events it is clear that the centers of inhibition have ceased to function in these people's heads. Naturally they refuse to hear a word about the Curzon line. For them even the frontiers laid down by the Treaty of Riga are only a minimum of their aggressive ambitions in the east, and moreover they realize that the final settlement of the controversial questions between Poland and the USSR would forthwith reduce their entire political platform—and also themselves—to useless lumber.

Is the Present Polish Government Capable of Fighting the German Fascists?

The facts prove that every time the question arises of the supporters of the Polish emigre government taking a practical part in the active armed struggle against the Germans, the government, contrary to its own verbal assurances, always finds a pretext for beating a retreat. Such was the case in the USSR (1941 and 1942), and such is the case in Poland.

The Soviet Government provided the Polish government with the opportunity of forming and training in the USSR a Polish army for the purpose of fighting the German invaders jointly with the Red Army, and granted it a loan without interest for this purpose.

In conformity with the proposal made by the Polish General Anders, it was agreed that as each division became ready for action it should be dispatched to the Soviet-German front. In October, 1941 the Polish army already numbered over 41,000 men (of whom 2,630 were officers), but General Anders did not send a single division to the front. Instead, the Polish government in its declaration of December 4, 1941 again promised that the "troops of the Polish Republic stationed on the territory of the Soviet Union will wage war against the German robbers shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet troops."

But the Polish government had not an intention of keeping this promise. In February, 1942 the Polish army already numbered over 73,000, but the Polish government refused to send its units to the front on the grounds that the "utilization of individual divisions will produce no results."

In conformity with the wishes of the Polish government, the Soviet Government permitted the evacuation in March, 1942 of part of the Polish troops (31,000 men) to Iran. In June, 1942, it became perfectly clear that the Polish army had no intention whatever of fighting the Hitlerites on the Soviet-German front. The question was then raised of completely evacuating this army from the USSR, and in August an additional 44,000 men were evacuated to the Near East. There General Anders's army has been idly kicking its heels to this day. It is common knowledge that while betraying this persistent passivity in relation to the war against the Germans, many of the Polish government's representatives in the USSR, ostensibly engaging in philanthropic activities for the benefit of Polish citizens, displayed considerable activity in organizing espionage against the Soviet Union and in spreading provocative defeatist rumors.

Finally, in the spring of 1943, the Polish emigre government sank so low in its anti-Soviet intoxication that it assisted the Hitler fiends in their scurrilous campaign connected with the massacre by the Germans of Polish war-prisoners and officers in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk. The Soviet Government then decided to break off relations with the emigre Polish government. In the light of materials published by the Special Commission for the Ascertaining and Investigation of the Circumstances of the Shooting by the German-fascist Invaders of Polish Officers and War-Prisoners in Katyn Forest, a revolting chain of German-fascist provocation, murder and fraud in this matter is fully revealed. On the public pillory, side by side with the Hitlerites, stand their accomplices in the Polish government.

In Poland itself the supporters of the emigre government, on their own assurances, have long been ready for armed struggle against the German invaders, but they have done nothing, as they are waiting for a signal from London. From London, however, we hear no exhortations to fight but warnings from "the commander-in-chief," Sosnkowski, and his associates: "You must remain calm." "You must not yield to unbridled instincts and despair."

Had the inhabitants of Poland heeded these exhortations to remain passive, the German invaders in Poland would have felt absolutely safe and could have continued their atrocities against the Polish people undisturbed. Happily, the real patriots of Poland like those in other occupied countries scorned these treacherous exhortations and are waging a stubborn and heroic struggle against the German miscreants.

The official Polish press justifies the government's "waiting policy" on the grounds that it is necessary to avoid "premature revolt" and needless sacrifice. But this is obviously false and an evasion, for the emigre government is restraining not only rebellion but all forms of struggle against the German invaders, and as experience has proved, passivity entails no less sacrifice than active struggle which dislocates the rear of the German army.

In complete harmony with Sosnkowski's suspicious policy, the underground semi-official *Bulletyn Informacyjny* wrote on March 18, 1943: "The fighting spirit in the governor-generalship has grown very considerably; its further premature growth is inexpedient from the point of view of Polish interests. The acceleration of mass armed revolts against the invaders would benefit only the Communists. . . ."

On February 11, 1943 the same newspaper frankly stated: "We could strike heavy blows at the invaders and make the struggle on a wider scale, but we deliberately refrain from doing so. . . . We are bound by the instructions of the government and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of our country to wait with folded arms."

In relation to the patriotic partisans of Poland—the active enemies of Hitler—the supporters of the emigre government do not confine themselves to a position of passive waiting, but fiercely denounce them and when the opportunity offers resort to bloody violence against them. The SWIT radio station, which has lately proclaimed itself the official radio station of the emigre government's representatives, has engaged in unbridled incitement against the partisans. It describes all the democratic anti-fascists and Communists in the Polish partisan units as "wrecker bands," or "robber bands," just as the Germans do. Thus on September 22, 1943 the SWIT radio station trumpeted that "robber bands are also roaming our country. Some of them disguise themselves with historical names, misusing the names of

Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Mickiewicz, Kilinski, Dombrowski and many other great Poles."

It is evident from this that the SWIT radio station incites its listeners precisely against the well-known partisan detachments which bear the names of Kosciuszko, Mickiewicz and others, and which are heroically fighting the German invaders against great odds.

In August, 1943, supporters of the Polish government in London brutally exterminated the Kilinski Polish partisan unit. In the Yanowo district, Lublin region, this unit encountered an armed government detachment commanded by Polish officers and armed with heavy and light machine guns. While negotiations were proceeding with a view to combining the operations of the two units against the invaders, the government unit wantonly attacked the Kilinski unit, surrounded it and shot the men down with machine guns. The survivors were disarmed, bound and brutally hacked to pieces with axes. In all, 30 men were treated in this way. Only one member of the unit managed to escape. It is noteworthy that in the *Bulletin Informacyjny* of September 2, 1943, "the leadership of the underground struggle" reported "the liquidation of the bandits of Yanowo district in Lublin." This, then, is what Sosnkowski's agents are capable of!

Supporters of the emigre government are particularly active in combating the partisans in connection with the latter's attacks on certain Polish quislings who sold themselves to the German invaders. Polish newspapers sometimes assert that the Germans found no traitors whatever among the Poles. This is a downright falsehood. They found a number of quislings among the intimate friends of many prominent Polish reactionary emigres, particularly among those close to the camp of Raczkiewicz and Sosnkowski. Such open traitors, for example, are Leon Kozlowski, ex-premier of the "Sanacyjne" government of 1934 and organizer of the Bereza Kartuzska concentration camp; Wysocki, ex-Polish ambassador from Berlin; Count Roniker, a big landowner and formerly a notable Pilsudskiite, whom the German invaders appointed president of the "Chief Wardens Council" of the governor-generalship, and a number of others.

This is not surprising, considering the past careers of the leading figures in the Polish emigre government, such as Raczkiewicz and Sosnkowski. In the past Raczkiewicz, to whom Mosticki, president of Poland, "transferred the presidential powers" when he fled to Switzerland, was Voyevoda of Vilna, and directed the suppression of the Byelorussian popular organization known as the Gromada, and the sanguinary pacification of Western Byelorussia. In 1935-1936 he was a member of the fascist government, together with Beck, as Minister of the Interior, and deported many of the Polish democrats to the Bereza Kartuzska concentration camp. Sosnkowski, whom

Raczkiewicz appointed "commander-in-chief" and minister of war, is one of the chief Polish fascists, already distinguished as such before the war.

Is it surprising that such representatives of the Polish government are not only incapable of organizing a struggle against the German fascists, but often play into the latter's hands? These men have no desire to fight German fascism. They are divorced from the Polish people and do not in the slightest degree represent either their real interests or their real opinions.

The temper of the masses of the Polish people groaning under the heel of the German invaders may be judged from the meetings held in May, 1943 in the Opatow, Radom, Kielce, Krakow and other districts of Poland, which passed resolutions denouncing the Katyn fraud, expressing contempt for the Hitlerite flunkies Kozlowski and Wysocki, and declaring that the Polish patriots had no wish to have anything in common with the policy of the emigre government, which was pursuing for Poland the fatal policy of the Becks and the Rydz-Smigly.

What Kind of a Neighbor Will a Regenerated Poland Be?

The Soviet Government has repeatedly stated that it stands for the restoration of a strong and independent Poland and for friendship between the Soviet Union and Poland. The Polish chauvinists and their friends, however, who are opposed to collaboration between Poland and the Soviet Union against the Germans, vehemently exclaim that behind the Soviet Union's desire for friendship with Poland is the desire to restrict her independence. Strangely enough, in their minds independence is incompatible with friendship: either independence or friendship—one appears to exclude the other.

The same line of argument is pursued by certain reactionary circles in England and America, with which the Polish squires are connected. For example, the editor of *The Nineteenth Century and After* argues that if in conformity with the wishes of the Russians, a friendly government is established in Poland, it will be a government "friendly for Russia and therefore subject to her." It is evident that these gentlemen are opposed to independence for Poland combined with friendship with the Soviet Union and mutual assistance against the Germans, and demand for Poland independence combined with hostility toward the Soviet Union and the prospect of another rapprochement between Poland and aggressive Germany. Is it not obvious that such an attitude toward our country on the part of a neighboring country would be an abuse of independence?

We have experienced this attitude on the part of Poland in the past; it caused us no little harm and proved to be absolutely fatal for Poland. It was the anti-Soviet position held by Poland that kept her in constant dependence upon bellicose alien imperialism

and made her the first accomplice, and later the victim, of German imperialism. If, in spite of all these lessons of history, the Polish chauvinists still wish to pursue this fatal path, one would think that the duty of the other nations would be to curb these inveterate adventurers and to convince Poland that this path is unprofitable and unsafe for her.

English and American pro-fascists like the above editor and others, however, carried away by their own imperialist plans, do everything to encourage the truculent Polish squires in their efforts to set up a new, hostile cordon around the USSR. With this object they have dug up the old Polish plans, which history had long buried, of forming a federation of all states "from sea to sea," from the Baltic to the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea, and have extolled this lifeless idea so much that representatives of the emigre Polish government advanced it as a demand in their program. Strictly speaking it is nothing more nor less than the notorious plan proposed by Clemenceau in 1919, of forming a suffocating "cordon sanitaire" around the land of the Soviets. It is common knowledge that attempts to carry out such plans benefited only German imperialism.

The Soviet Government desires to establish friendship between the USSR and Poland on the basis of durable good-neighborly relations, and if the Polish people desire it, on the basis of an alliance for mutual aid against the Germans as the principal enemies of the Soviet Union and Poland. Why do certain reactionary circles in America and England object to this? Do not the United States and Great Britain also wish to have their neighboring small and medium-sized countries as their friends, and not as their enemies? Yet no one condemns them for this. If the United States objects when Argentine, which is 6,000 miles from New York, occupies an anti-United States position, why should the Soviet Union reconcile itself to the fact that Poland, its immediate neighbor, occupies an anti-Soviet position which, moreover, glaringly runs counter to Poland's own interests? Has not experience proved that only in an alliance with the USSR can Poland really insure her security and independence?

Recently the American columnist Walter Lippman, in discussing the mutual relations of the leading great powers with their neighboring countries, said that not a single country bordering on the Soviet Union, not a single country in Western Europe adjacent to Great Britain, nor a single neighboring American Republic, could count on peace and order unless it realized that it existed under a definite system of strategical defense. The country that rebels against this may cause endless trouble for itself and for the whole world, he said.

The Soviet Union needs no spheres of influence nor vassals. It needs friendly neighbors, and its neigh-

bors need its friendship. Every attempt to set our neighbors against us and prevent the development of friendly relations and lasting collaboration between them and our great country will obviously run counter to the task of insuring lasting peace and security for all peace-loving people.

Normal political relations between neighboring countries presupposes also the establishment of normal economic relations. After Versailles, Poland, guided by a policy of hostility toward us, reduced Poland's trade with the USSR almost to zero. In this they followed a very simple "principle": On the one hand, to refrain from taking any step which, although in the interests of Poland, might help to strengthen the Soviet Union or give Polish economic circles an interest in the further development of trade with the USSR; on the other hand, not to refrain from anything which in the opinion of the rulers of Poland would serve to weaken the Soviet Union. It must be supposed that a regenerated Poland will not try to avoid developing economic collaboration with the Soviet Union. Only on the basis of such collaboration can she secure the rapid restoration and further development of her economy.

A regenerated Poland will also be deeply interested in preserving and enhancing unity among the Allied great powers, whereas those in the present emigre government who pursue Beck's policy are, like the German fascists, counting on being able to cause friction among Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union, and particularly in waging a scurrilous campaign against the Teheran Three-Power Conference, as well as against the Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty of friendship and mutual aid and for postwar collaboration.

It is not surprising that the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR, as well as numerous representatives of progressive Polish circles in America and in other countries, assert that the Polish people are faced with the task of expelling the reactionaries and semi-fascists from the Polish government. Democratic Polish organizations operating underground in Poland itself are equally sympathetic on this point.

The Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR has formed a Polish Army Corps consisting of Poles fit for active service who refused to flee from the battlefield with General Anders, and are determined to play their part in the present glorious struggle for liberation. As is well-known, the first Divisions of this Polish Corps are already in the fighting line, and shoulder to shoulder with the units of the heroic Red Army are routing the German-fascist troops and bringing liberation to Poland. This joint struggle for liberation opens a new page in the history of Soviet-Polish relations—a page of collaboration for the mutual benefit of both countries.

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ON RUMANIAN TERRITORY

By L. Kudrevatikh

It was at a crossing of the Prut, one fine spring day, that we met Red Army veteran Nikolai Serezhnikov. He was looking about, contemplating the picture of the Red Army on the move.

"I remember this place," he said. "We fought the enemy here for the first time in June, 1941. The Rumanians and Germans came pouring across the river, vicious, arrogant and boastful. First to give

battle were our border guards. The forces were unequal and we had to withdraw. It was bitter . . . but we knew we would return. And now the Red Army's here again, steeled by three years' hard fighting. We've grown hard, we hate the enemy like nothing on earth. And the Germans are still dangerous. They'll fight back. But they are not the men they were. We've taken the arrogance out of them."



Red Army officers greet a comrade who has received the same decoration they are wearing

We crossed the ragged lines of the German defense, pitted with shell holes. Behind us were rows of barbed wire, silenced machine-gun nests, shattered blockhouses, and communication trenches jammed with corpses of Nazi soldiers and officers. Not so long ago this was the enemy's forward line, and we could see how bitter his resistance had been. Inanimate columns of tanks, trucks and supply wagons blocked the roads. The Germans abandoned their auto repair and supply bases in perfect order. Their knapsacks and telephone equipment were found lying about in the cottages.

The blow unleashed upon the Germans at the approaches to the Prut by the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front under the command of Marshal Konev proved powerful and extremely effective. The German command had feverishly rushed reserves of tanks and motorized artillery to this sector. Not only did they drain their forces in neighboring sectors, but also the remote garrisons and defense lines of the Soviet-German front.

Germans Battled to Hold Prut

The Germans made a desperate attempt to hold the Prut. But it was useless. The Nazis, first by degrees and then precipitously, fell back to the river crossings. The SS men fired volley after volley into the backs of the fleeing Germans and Rumanians; German officers lunged forward to turn their fleeing men and lead them into counter-attacks. But nothing availed. The uncontrollable enemy soldiers gathered at the crossings in mobs; many attempted to swim across and were drowned in the icy waters. The Germans threw themselves upon ferry-boats, rafts and whatever facilities were available. They frantically jostled one another, some of them tumbling into the river.

This peculiar battle for control of the bridgeheads well displayed the brutish aspect of the Nazi in a critical moment—concerned only with saving his own skin and ready to sell out and betray even his partners. A characteristic feature of the struggle were the numerous Rumanian corpses at the approaches and bridgeheads on the left bank of the river. It developed that the Germans had not permitted their "allies" to join them on the ferries. The Rumanians had been told to shift for themselves and had been driven away, fought off with rifle butts, fired upon and attacked with bayonets. Such is the German-Rumanian "blood brotherhood" in practice.

The struggle for crossings was at its height, with German soldiers still fighting each other savagely for ferries and rafts, when Soviet troops reached the river and proceeded to force it from the march. Everything available for crossing was put to use, and here the valorous aspect of the Red Army came to the fore. When things were most difficult, comrade

helped comrade; each man felt the helping hand of his neighbor. Entire units completed the crossing. Enemy machine guns chattered on the opposite bank, but German lead was not strong enough to quench the offensive spirit of our troops.

After establishing themselves on the hillocks on the right bank and repulsing several counter-attacks by Germans and Rumanians, Soviet troops proceeded to extend their foothold. They were soon reinforced by artillery attacks. So far Red Army troops on Rumanian territory have occupied more than 50 inhabited places, including Kyrpritsy, 13 kilometers north of Jassy.

Red Army men on Rumanian territory noticed at first glance that the villages very much resembled those they had left behind on Soviet territory. Here too the fields were littered with the wreckage of German armaments and corpses of German and Rumanian soldiers and officers. There is plenty to show that Germans on Rumanian soil behave much as conquerors on conquered territory. German signposts stood at the road crossings; everywhere were posted orders of German authorities, from army commanders to village commandants.

As they retreat the Nazis as a rule herd the local population before them, intimidating the people with hair-raising stories about the Red Army. The Germans and their Rumanian lackeys, in fact, told the people that all who remained would be annihilated by Soviet troops. On the day after the arrival of the Red Army the people were able to see for themselves what the Nazis' stories were worth; they saw that the Red Army is the most disciplined of armies. Wide-eyed they stared at the formidable Soviet tanks and self-propelled guns, the smart columns of Soviet infantry. Rumanians who fled are now gradually returning to their homes in towns and villages.

45,000 Women Wear Soviet Decorations

The Soviet Government has decorated 45,000 women with orders and medals. Of this number, 2,300 women guerrillas wear the "Guerrilla of the Patriotic War" Medal.

When the Germans were advancing on Moscow in September, 1941, more than 5,000 women made application to join the People's Guard. During the blockade of Leningrad, women factory workers fulfilled and over-fulfilled their quotas for the front.

Soviet women played a large role in the life of their country in peacetime, but in war the importance of their work has immeasurably increased. In some branches of the national economy—particularly in agriculture—it has become decisive.

NIKOLAYEV YESTERDAY AND TODAY

A PRAVDA correspondent reports:

The battle for Nikolayev raged for several days, with fierce fighting on the outskirts of the city. One attack followed another, Soviet troops steadily pushing the enemy back. They could see the city lying below, enveloped in flame and smoke. Knowing they could not hold Nikolayev, the Germans attempted to destroy it. They fought with the desperation of doomed men, but their fortifications saved them no more than rivers or spring thaws. Soviet troops broke into the city and after fierce street fighting cleared it of the invaders.

Today the citizens point out two buildings, on Falev and Potemkin streets, as the most terrible places in Nikolayev. Here the Gestapo was quartered, here Soviet citizens were murdered. The Timvod area and the former naval hospital were turned into concentration camps where war prisoners, persons evacuated from other cities, and all who did not submit to the invaders, were kept. Very few managed to escape. About 5,000 bodies are buried around the Naval Hospital. The Nazis mass-murdered Soviet citizens beyond the Ingul bridge, in the vicinity of the airport.

In the two and one-half years of German occupation 25,000 persons were shot or starved to death in Nikolayev. They were buried in common graves. Eye-witnesses state that about three months ago the Hitlerites tried to cover up their crimes. They opened up the graves, dragged out the bodies, poured petrol on them and set them on fire. For an entire month the heavy smell of burning flesh hung over the city. Then the fascists shot all hostages and prisoners who had been forced to do this work.

Thus the Germans attempted to strike terror into the Soviet people. They failed. The city struck back at the hangmen. Acts of sabotage occurred daily, especially in the southern and northern shipyards, which the Germans tried to reopen. On one occasion unidentified persons attacked an airdrome near the city and burned seven planes. German officers and men disappeared almost daily, despite the severe reprisals. The city took its revenge on the invaders.

The Hitlerites took every opportunity to plunder Nikolayev. The threat of starvation forced the majority of the population to work; the average monthly earnings of a worker were 300 rubles, while 500 grams of bread cost 150 rubles. The occupationists robbed the people and shipped machinery and laboratory equipment to Germany. They carried off everything they could lay hands on, even medicinal herbs from the steppe around the city.

The nearer the Red Army approached, the more savage the Germans became. On March 24 an auto-

mobile with a loudspeaker drove through the streets. The Germans announced that all civilians remaining in the city by 4:00 P. M. next day would be shot. They tried to drive the population to Germany, but the people of Nikolayev found shelter in cellars, attics and pits. Nikolai Klyuevisky and Nikolai Voznyuk, 18-year-old lads and former pupils of High School No. 31, spent 12 days in a pit they had dug under their house. Konstantin Gromov, a truck driver, received 50 lashes in the Gestapo for refusing to work. He spent 20 days hiding underground.



Germans retreating from a Soviet village burned the grain before the eyes of collective farm women

The shipyards have been demolished. Before retreating the Germans blew up the mill, oil plant, macaroni factory, power plant, meat-packing plant and many other industrial enterprises. The downtown section of the city was completely smashed. Theaters and clubs were blown up.

Quiet Taurid street was lined with small houses. The spring wind blows through the shattered buildings and sways the lifeless cables. One's first impression is that everything here is dead. But the street is alive and returning to normal activity. The Red Flag flies over one of the cottages, the home of Anna Leontievna Rossoshinskaya. There is deep sorrow in her eyes. The Germans drove away her three sons. But she concealed the Red Flag and today she has put it out to celebrate the liberation of the city. There are many flags, large and small. Patriots risked their lives to hide them. They did not wait in vain for the hour of liberation.

Along the streets, past the welcoming flags, Soviet troops marched. The Red Army is moving on, the hearts of the soldiers filled with hatred and anger. They have seen the ruins and ashes of Nikolayev. Gripping their weapons more firmly, they hurry to engage the enemy.

Moscow Exhibits New Armament Captured From Germans

By Alexander Sinelnikov

During their recent successful offensive, the troops of the Leningrad Front captured enormous booty. Near the village of Bezabotny the Germans were forced to abandon several long-range 220-mm. guns, 1943 model. Some of these monsters have been brought to Moscow for display at the Exhibit of Captured German Armament.



Six-barreled German trench mortars on exhibit in Moscow

scription "Sturmvogel." This talisman did not help the Hitlerites, who abandoned many such weapons near Krasnoye Selo.

On the railway tracks near Gatchino the Germans set up a heavy French gun with a range of 19 kilometers. Soviet gunners by well-directed fire shattered the gun breech, ending the barbarous shelling of Leningrad from that area. This muzzled monster rests beside field guns and howitzers of Belgian, French and Czech make. They too are new models, left by the Germans at the approaches to Leningrad during their hasty retreat.

There is also a 20-mm. automatic anti-aircraft gun called "Marianna." A battery of these guns was captured at the approaches to Peterhof. From there the Exhibit also received the heavy long-range 105-mm. mortar. Nearby is an exhibit from the First Baltic Front—two 10-barreled mortars in armored carriers. They were manufactured only last year, and the Germans kept them a dead secret until the dashing Soviet attacks forced the Nazis to flee so fast they abandoned even their secret weapons.

Four 22-mm. Schneider mortars are lined up in a row. Three are undamaged. Near them is stacked evidence of the bloody crimes of the Hitlerites—cases of 100-kilogram shells of the type sent hurtling into the residential sections of Leningrad from the area of Strelna and Peterhof.

Among other new exhibits are two caterpillar trucks, a Steyr 7.92-mm. machine gun of a new 1943 model, captured in the region of Korsun-Shevchenkivsky, and a 10-ton Heinschel truck. From the First Ukrainian Front comes a German caterpillar heavy motorcycle, an 88-mm. German anti-tank rifle and a grenade with cumulative action.

Red Army Booty Squads Discover Novelties in German Equipment

The Red Army is clearing up the German traffic jam on the southern front. Soviet booty squads follow in the wake of the fighting, and specialists sort the captured equipment, deciding what can be sent into action immediately. German vehicles in perfect working order are now speeding ahead, with new masters at the wheel. The Soviet booty squads have noticed certain novelties—for instance, many Tiger and Panther tanks are coated with an asbestos mixture, as a protection against incendiary compounds. Some of the vehicles also carry additional steel shields.

"From this gun the Germans shelled Leningrad," reads an inscription on a 105-mm. heavy gun which the Germans had set up behind Pulkovo Heights and fired from a range of 18,300 meters. Beside it is a heavy infantry gun of 150-mm. caliber. A shield on this gun bears the picture of an eagle and the in-

THIRD MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF JEWISH PEOPLE HELD IN MOSCOW

The third meeting of representatives of the Jewish people was held in Moscow on April 2, under the auspices of the Jewish Anti-fascist Committee of the USSR. Solomon Mikhoels, Chairman of the Committee, presided. Following are excerpts from speeches delivered at the meeting:

SOLOMON MIKHOELS

Sons and daughters of the Jewish nation, brothers and sisters! This third meeting of representatives of the Jewish people is being held at a moment of supreme historical significance. We are gathered here at a time of glory and grandeur for our motherland, the Soviet land, at a time of brilliant victories of the heroic Red Army, at a time of triumph for Stalin's strategy. . . .

The hour of final and just victory is nearing. We are aware of the misery, the tragic fate of our Soviet brothers carried off into slavery, languishing in concentration camps or living in ghettos, those cemeteries of the living dead. But today we do not bewail our dead, for tears are an inadequate tribute to those who have tragically fallen. The victims cry out for vengeance. Old men done to death, strangled women, and children buried alive demand vengeance. We are proud that shoulder to shoulder with the great Russian people, hand in hand with the Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Georgians and Uzbeks, the finest sons of the Jewish people are fighting for the Soviet motherland, for Leninist-Stalinist truth and friendship, for Soviet liberty.

We are able to declare with pride that Jews hold fourth place among the nationalities of the Soviet Union for the number of men decorated for distinguished service on the fronts of the Patriotic War. We are proud to know that side by side with the un-

fading names of Safonov and Molodchy, Gastello and Zaitsev, Kuchkar, Turdiyev and Pokryshkin, are the names of Lazar Papernik, Chaim Diskin, Solomon Gorelik and Lieutenant General Kreiser, as well as Heroes of the Soviet Union Raphael Milner and Leonid Buber, who are present at this meeting today.

In a recent speech Comrade Khrushchev gave figures on the number of heroes of the First Ukrainian Front, and there also Jewish heroes hold a place of honor. Among men on this front who have been given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, the Jews have fifth place.

We are proud to know that our brothers and sisters refused to be meek and dumb victims of the German butchers. They went off to join guerrilla detachments, they organized a revolt in their ghetto, which is an act of incredible heroism and courage. Among us here today are guerrilla Commander Blakhman, 70-year-old Arya Leib Hazanov, and the guerrilla poet Sutzkever, who has come here from the forests of Lithuania.

We are fighting arms in hand. Our Soviet country has given us this right, has accorded us this honor. We appeal to the Jews all over the world to follow the example of the Soviet peoples, to follow the example of Soviet Jews.

ILYA EHRENBURG

At night the shades of the dead surround us. Woe to him who forgets! Woe to him who forgives!

It was a bright summer day. Along a steep street in Mozyr strode a young German. The year-old infant impaled on his bayonet was still writhing and shrieking. The German sang as he walked. In the tractor works at Kharkov a woman gave birth just before her execution. The Germans killed the child, who lived on this earth only four hours. In Propoisk 97-year-old Moissey Isaakovich Entinson went to his death; he was followed by his great-grandchildren. The Germans burned children, tore them to pieces, killed them without bullets by dashing their heads against trees; they asphyxiated them in murder vans.

Let the fascists not try to plead the rules of war. They slaughter helpless suckling infants and old folk. Two years ago, in days of sorest trial, we said, "The child murderers must not live!" At that time the invaders laughed.

The Red Army is marching westward. The judges are on their way. Not so long ago the German butchers were in the Caucasus. Now the Red Army is in the Carpathians. Now Germany is shivering at the thought of inevitable retribution.

The Germans thought that in a time of calamity the nations of the Soviet Union would fall apart, but the nations of the Soviet Union have become closer-welded. There are no more Jews in Kiev or Warsaw,

Prague or Amsterdam. But in the village of Blagodatnoye, 30 Jews found salvation. They were saved by a collective farm bookkeeper, Pavel Sergeyevich Zinchenko, at the risk of his life. The vow of friendship is not written in ink, but in the blood of the best. In a fraternal grave I saw the bodies of two children slain by the Germans—a Jewish girl and a Russian boy. These children went to their death hand in hand—little children, but with hearts as big as our land.

The Germans looked upon the Jews as a target. But the target began to shoot back. Many a dead German could tell how the Jews fight. But figures aside! Blood is not to be weighed. We children of Russia, citizens of the Soviet Republic, march in battle hand in hand—Russians, Georgians, Ukrainians, Jews, Armenians and Tatars. On our lips is one password: motherland.

I have seen the cities of the Ukraine and Byelorussia. There are no Jews left in them. The people point silently to corpses, ditches and ravines. But Jews are coming—coming with the Red Army—men and commanders. They are winning back their native towns. Private Isaac Shpeyer, of the Guards, fought his way into Berdichev. He came to Shevchenko street, where he was born and brought up. He learned that his father had been crucified and his mother and sister killed on Lysaya hill. An hour later his company again went into action. Shpeyer was killed while storming Lysaya hill—he died fighting for his mother's grave.

The town where you were born, the house in which you were brought up—you will return to it, soldier! You will return to it after victory and after Berlin. And you, too, will return, unhappy refugee. You are not a rolling stone, a bird of passage. There is no force on earth that can keep a man from his home. It may be devastated. It may be associated with the sufferings of his dear ones. But he will not change it for the tabernacles of Paradise.

Kiev, Kharkov, Gomel, Minsk, Vinnitsa, Lutsk, Rovno, Balta, Berdichev, Chernigov, Odessa—here perished your mother and your children. But here you will live, here you will help to build anew—and you will not forget anything, to the end of your days.

This is not a war between countries. It is a duel between reason and darkness, between good and villainy. Why does the whole world gaze upon the Red Army with hope? Because it brings life and liberty. The fascists hate Jews. But do they hate Jews alone? The fascists hate mankind. They have taken up arms against reason and beauty. We may say with pride that the fascists' bestial hatred of us exalts us. It indicates that the Jews were not the last to take the path of thought and struggle.

The Hitlerites have fished anti-Semitism from the garbage heap of history. They have resurrected for-

gotten prejudices and discredited superstitions. You cannot reform fascists. They have to be destroyed. The Soviet people will extirpate fascism with fire. Nor will they tolerate the existence of an ersatz fascism on earth. . . .

The Red Army is the bringer of life, justice and equality. It is a purifying tempest, a storm of the outraged conscience. The day accursed fascism falls, the rats, spiders and slugs, followers of the foolish and cruel heresy known as anti-Semitism, will disappear, will vanish into the night. The fate of the Jews is organically bound up with liberty and progress. Anti-Semitism breeds in darkness. But the sun is rising in the east. And who, when he hears of the Red Army's victories, can refrain from crying, "Long live the light!"

We are winning not only because we now have more tanks and guns. We are winning because justice is on our side. It helped our country to live through the year of 1941. For years Hitler trampled upon Europe. Who stopped him? Who is pushing him into the abyss? The Red Army. Therein lies profound justice—for it is the State of Lenin and Stalin, it is Russia, her ideals, her culture, her soul, which have won. There is in Russia a lofty humanism. It was not an accident that the new era was ushered in by Russia. Brotherhood was a dream of Radishchev, of the Decembrists, of Herzen and Chernyshevsky and the Bolsheviks. It was not the laws of the Tsars but the soul of the Russian people which cemented Russian Jews with Russia. In defense of the persecuted were raised the immortal voices of Tolstoy and Shchedrin, Gorky and Lenin.

To the great grief of all of us, the shadow of the hangman has fallen upon our home. We reply not by rending our clothes and covering our heads with ashes, but with fire—the fire of guns, the fire of furnaces, the fire of the heart. I am not issuing a call: the time for words has long past. Whoever has a conscience will know what he has to do. The Soviet people will have paid with their blood for the triumph of justice, and nothing can eradicate that from the minds of men. History will say that more than ourselves we loved our country and justice.

Live, then, Soviet Union, live—thy peoples, thy gardens, thy children, thy Stalin!

A. SUTZKEVER, GUERRILLA-POET

I have come to you from a different world. For almost three years I have not set foot on a sidewalk. My mother was beaten to death in Vilnius by storm troopers, for no other reason than that she forgot Jews must keep to the middle of the street. She inadvertently put one foot on the sidewalk.

I would be glad if I could obliterate from my memory the nightmarish pictures still feverishly

burning in my brain. In September, 1941, when a large section of the Jewish male population had already been rounded up, ostensibly to be sent to work but actually to be shot, about 60,000 Jews were herded into the streets of Vilnius and a cordon of storm troopers thrown about them. They were not permitted to take anything from their homes. The unfortunates were formed into columns and driven in the direction of the Jewish ghetto. Actually, however, only part of them were locked in ghettos; the rest were taken to the Lukishki prison, from whence no one returned.

In the Vilnius Gestapo there was a special room where German professors were busy devising methods of prolonging and intensifying the sufferings and tortures of victims. In 1941 a "big execution" was carried out in the second ghetto under the supervision of executioner Schweineberg. Soon that ghetto was cleared. The gates were pulled down, the blood washed off the stones. Nothing remains of the 20,000 Jews who had inhabited it. . . .

In the streets in Vilnius fenced off with barbed wire entanglements, two children's homes, three kindergartens and four schools were opened—conducted by teachers who put their whole soul into this work.

ITZIK FEFFER, POET

Dear brothers and sisters! During the journey I made with Solomon Mikhoels, we met hundreds of thousands of people. On behalf of Soviet Jews we conveyed to them Soviet greetings—*Sholom aleichem!* Everywhere—in New York, London, Montreal, San Francisco, Mexico City and Chicago—we were requested upon our return home to convey warm greetings to you on behalf of American, Canadian, Mexican and English Jews, and through you to all Jews living and fighting in our great Soviet Union.

We met Jews, Russians, Negroes, Englishmen, Ukrainians, Czechs, Spaniards and Poles—and all asked us to greet the sacred Soviet land on their behalf and to kiss the land along which our gallant Red Army is marching from victory to victory, the land on which lives, creates and fights our older brother, the great Russian people, the Soviet land where Jews together with all brother peoples have become the creators of a new world, where national dissension has been outlawed and in whose code are inscribed Joseph Stalin's words—that anti-Semitism is a crime against the State. . . .

The globe is too small to hold both mankind and fascism. From the fires, from the ruins, from beneath the ground, the blood of martyred victims calls to us. Like Cain, the Hitlerite murderer tries to escape justice. Before retreating from Kiev the Nazis dug up and burned the remains of our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, in Babi Yar. They scattered their ashes, hoping that the wind

All this was done illegally, because the Jews were forbidden to attend school. But that was not the only manifestation of the ghetto's resistance. There was an armed organization, founded in 1941 after the wholesale massacres of Jews in Vilnius and in the provinces. Its founder and commander was an ordinary Vilnius worker, Itzik Wittenberg.

The idea of resistance united all. In a short time funds were collected in the ghetto for obtaining arms. Members of the organization employed in German war factories stole pistols and at the risk of their lives brought them to the ghetto. There were special groups of blasters, grenade throwers, machine gunners, etc. The organization managed to get hold of printshop equipment, which enabled us to publish an illegal newspaper. We fixed up a receiving set in a cave and began to publish radio bulletins regularly. Three comrades, equipped with explosive charges produced in the Vilnius ghetto, derailed a German munitions train on the way to the front. . . .

The whole world should know that in the forests of Lithuania and Byelorussia, from whence I have just come by plane to Moscow, there are hundreds of Jewish guerrillas, brave avengers of the blood of their brothers. . . .

would cover up the mystery of their crimes. But the ashes of Babi Yar are searing our hearts, the flames are blazing in our eyes, the ashes have settled on our burning wounds and are giving us no rest. And we will not be worthy of treading the earth if we do not destroy these cannibals with the bayonets of our hate, if we do not burn them in the fires of our revenge, if we do not turn our tears into crushing shells.

The fascists are out not only to exterminate our people. They wanted us to disappear from the face of the earth, with the stigma of cowards. But we have confounded them. They will never forget Israel Fisanovich's torpedoes, Jacob Kreiser's shells, Lazar Papernik's grenades, Solomon Gorelik's tank, the music of the propeller of Michael Plotkin's airplane, or Raphael Milner's bayonet.

The great American-Jewish writer, Sholom Asch, said: "Several years ago we laughed when we read about the Five-Year Plans. We wondered who was going to carry out those Five-Year Plans. The people there had not enough bread and wore patched trousers. Now we say, blessed be the Russian people who didn't over-eat as we, who didn't over-dress as we, but who have therefore saved mankind from extinction and disgrace." . . .

Our people, like our brother peoples, has sustained great casualties in this war. We have lost much

(Continued on page eight)

Marietta Shaginian — Armenian Writer

The well-known Soviet author Marietta Shaginian recently completed a book on the great Ukrainian poet, Taras Shevchenko. The council of the Maxim Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has conferred on her the degree of Doctor of Philological Science.

Marietta Shaginian, an Armenian, was born in 1888. Her father was a lecturer in Moscow University. Possessed of a vital, original and extremely active mind, the noted writer has studied philosophy, mineralogy, music, technology, weaving, hydro-electric engineering and history.

Her first published work was a book of verse, but her true metier is prose. A long novel, *One's Own Destiny*, dealing with the role and fate of the intelligentsia, appeared on the eve of the Revolution. All of Marietta Shaginian's work expresses a consistent theme—that the search for "home," for one's personal destiny, can only be crowned with success in creative labor. *Change*, a novel written in 1923, describes the moral upheaval through which the Russian intelligentsia passed under Soviet conditions.

Hydro-Central, written in 1931, initiated a new trend in Soviet literature. It was the first novel about industrial construction, and its heroes are the

people of a distant border republic. The theme is the transformation of the entire region by the building of a great hydro-electric plant. This book was the outcome of the writer's visit to a large hydro-electric plant in Armenia. She was no mere observer: she lived the life of the plant, learned its problems and tasks, wrote about them for the press, and helped to overcome its difficulties.

During the present war Marietta Shaginian has written *The Urals in Defense*, an attempt to describe the effect of the patriotic quickening of spirit on the psychology of Soviet workers, and on technology and scientific method. In the First World War, which began during the Tsarist regime, the number of workers in the Urals increased, but their energy showed a decline, technical equipment wore out and the output fell.

Today the picture is diametrically opposite. "Our workers," says Marietta Shaginian, "are in close touch with the front. Every event that takes place there sends up quality and output. If things are going hard at the front, the worker makes a special effort out of hatred for the enemy; if things are going well at the front, he does his utmost out of joy—and in both cases production is increased."

JEWISH MEETING

(Continued from page seven)

blood, but we have gained in courage. We are confident of our strength. We respect our past, are proud of our present, and are confident of our future. . . .

SHAKHNO EPSTEIN

Executive Secretary, Jewish Anti-fascist Committee in USSR, and Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper EINIGKEIT.

The fascist robber inflicted untold pains and sufferings on our country, untold misfortunes on all freedom-loving nations. . . . In Soviet districts in which the enemy temporarily held sway, he annihilated the Jewish population that remained, but he has not succeeded in annihilating the majority of the Jewish population, for our Government evacuated them far into the interior of the country. The Soviet Union is, in fact, the sole country in Europe where the Jewish people has been preserved, is leading a full-blooded life in the family of brother nations, and is setting an example for the Jews of other conti-

nents, showing them how to defend their honor, freedom and national dignity.

From the first day of Hitler's robber attack on our country, not a single Soviet Jew has given way to despair in the face of the fascist outrages. Even when things were at their worst, he knew there was a force on which he could rely, that he was not defenseless or helpless, for he enjoyed all the rights of a citizen of the Soviet Union. . . .

The guerrillas who have spoken here are men of three generations and of different levels of culture. But with all the difference in age and outlook, they are the personification of the Soviet Jew, imbued with the Soviet spirit, with a sense of the Soviet friendship of peoples and of national freedom. . . . He will not give his life cheaply. Still more representative of the new type of Jew produced by the Soviet system are the glorious Red Army soldiers and commanders, some of whom have spoken at this meeting. They are a new kind of men, such as the history of the Jewish people has not known before.

To the sounds of the new national anthem of the Soviet Union, the anthem of struggle and freedom, we are ending our meeting with the call: Everything for victory over fascism!

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Presentation of Soviet Decorations to Members of U. S. Army, Navy and Merchant Marine

On March 11, in the Chinese Room of the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C., the presentation of Soviet Military Orders and Medals to members of the United States Army, Navy and Merchant Marine took place. *(Names of officers and men receiving Soviet decorations were published in Information Bulletin No. 21, February 22, 1944).*

The Ambassador of the USSR in the United States, Andrei A. Gromyko, made the presentation speech, to which the United States Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, responded. Following are the texts of their remarks:

AMBASSADOR ANDREI A. GROMYKO

MR. SECRETARY:

I am very happy to present to you today the Orders and Medals awarded by the Soviet Government to members of the Armed Forces and Merchant Marine of the United States of America. The Soviet Government presented these decorations to 26 representatives of the Army, 16 representatives of the Navy and 10 representatives of the Merchant Marine of the United States for their outstanding services in the struggle against our common enemy—Hitlerite Germany. These awards furthermore express the friendly feelings of the Soviet people toward the people of the United States.

Both our countries are waging the struggle against our common enemy—Hitlerite Germany and its satellites in Europe. For almost three years the Red Army has conducted a life-and-death struggle against the crafty enemy. Straining all its forces and supported by the whole Soviet people, our Army not only stopped the enemy, but inflicted a number of serious defeats upon him which predetermined the inevitability of his final rout. At the present time the armies of the Soviet Union successfully continue riding Soviet soil of enemy troops.

Although my country still carries the main burden of military efforts and sacrifices, its peoples mark with satisfaction the steadily growing role and importance of the armed forces of the friendly American people in this struggle. American troops, and troops of our common ally, Great Britain, have struck the enemy a number of serious blows in the Mediterranean theater of war and in the south of Italy.

American fliers have been and are successfully bombing military objectives in fascist Germany.

I am particularly happy that among those decorated by my Government is General Eisenhower, who receives the highest award of the Soviet Union—the Order of Suvorov of the First Degree.

I am much pleased also that those receiving high awards include such outstanding representatives of the armed forces of the United States as Lieutenant General Spaatz, Lieutenant General Eaker, Vice Admiral Hewitt and other ranking officers.

I have good reason to be confident that the courage and skill shown in the past by those who have been awarded decorations will be multiplied by the American armed forces in the forthcoming decisive battles against the hated enemy, in which American officers, soldiers and seamen will demonstrate their self-sacrifice and courage. These battles must and cannot fail to lead to the final rout of the enemy forces, to the hastening of the complete liberation of Europe from Hitlerite barbarism, to the elimination of the fascist menace forever. The peoples of our two countries, and those of all the United Nations, have no doubts that the joint efforts of the Allies will bring final defeat to the enemy. They have no doubts that victory will be ours.

Permit me, Mr. Secretary, on behalf of my Government, to convey through you to the members of the United States Army, Navy and Merchant Marine decorated by the Soviet Government, my sincere congratulations and wishes for success in their future activities in the struggle against the enemy.

SECRETARY OF STATE CORDELL HULL

In the name of the Government of the United States I wish to express to you, Mr. Ambassador, and to your Government my great appreciation for the high honor shown to the United States and to the members of its Army, Navy and Merchant Marine by the award of these decorations. I also wish to thank you for the friendly sentiments which you have expressed.

As you know, the officers and men to whom these decorations are destined are not able to be present today because they are on active duty on various fields of battle, either engaged in the relentless struggle against our common enemy Nazi Germany, or

carrying on that no less important activity, the transportation of supplies to our armies and to those of our Allies.

These men will receive with pride and gratitude the honor shown them by the Soviet Government and will be inspired to carry on with increased vigor their contributions to our final victory.

The American people, I am sure, greatly appreciate this tribute to the bravery and ability of our officers and men from the Soviet Union whose armed forces are daily offering an inspiration to all freedom-loving people by new and decisive victories.

Victories of Historic Importance

On April 10 IZVESTIA wrote editorially:

The powerful offensive of the Red Army, bringing ever greater results, is crowned by victories of historic importance. When the troops of the First Ukrainian Front, under Marshal Zhukov, split the German front into two parts, it became evident that the strategic task had been successfully carried out, a task which will lead to the most important consequences.

Displaying miracles of maneuvering capacity under the most difficult conditions of spring thaw, Red Army troops are breaking through the German defense, surrounding groups of Germans and overwhelming and disorganizing their resistance.

Developing the offensive and pursuing the retreating enemy, the troops of the First and Second Ukrainian Fronts have entered Rumania, and there on the enemy's territory continue to batter and annihilate German and Rumanian troops. The power and scope of the Red Army's offensive reflect the triumph of Soviet strategy.

Yesterday the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR made the first awards of the highest military order, the Order of Victory, to Marshals of the Soviet Union Zhukov and Vasilevsky. The Victory Order, according to the statute, is awarded to higher commanders "for the successful carrying out of such war operations on a scale of one or several fronts, as a result of which the situation is radically changed in favor of the Red Army." The situation in the south was changed in just such a way.

* * *

Referring to the capture of Odessa, IZVESTIA comments:

Odessa was a powerful strongpoint of the German defense covering the approaches to the central part

of Rumania. The significance of Odessa as an important economic and political center of the country and a first-class port on the Black Sea is well known. It is a city of unfading glory. The defense of Odessa went down in the history of the Patriotic War as one of its most glorious pages.

The ring of the Odessa defense was never broken by the enemy. Soviet troops were evacuated from the Odessa area in the autumn of 1941, on order of the Supreme Command of the Red Army, for strategic considerations and without pressure on the part of German and Rumanian troops. For more than two months the German and Rumanian armies could not overcome the resistance of Soviet defenders of Odessa. But it took the troops of the Red Army only a few days to break the German defense and capture the city.

The Soviet people are also marking another outstanding victory. The troops of the Fourth Ukrainian Front, under command of Army General Tolbukhin, launched an offensive on Perekop Isthmus and the southern coast of the Sivash, to decide the fate of the Crimea. In two days of fighting Soviet troops pierced the strongly-fortified German defense, captured the town of Armyansk and emerged on the Ishun positions. Simultaneously Red Army troops forced the Sivash and broke the German defense in the narrow lakes and defiles, where the Hitlerite command expected to bar the path of our troops to the Crimea. The Red Army's bayonets and fire are forcing the road over the bodies of German soldiers.

Our motherland is living through great and joyous days, and each day brings new successes in the powerful Soviet offensive, widening the scope of victory born of the efforts of the people, of the exploits of the Red Army and of the genius of the great military leader and strategist, Stalin.

ROUT OF GERMANS AT ODESSA

The Germans evidently intended to make a stand on a line encompassing Odessa, in order to complete their evacuation of the city. But events developed



A plane of the Black Sea Fleet Air Arm escorts a Soviet submarine into port after a successful raid

so swiftly, and Soviet tank, cavalry and infantry units besieging the city were so powerful, the defense of the encompassing line was out of the question.

The remnants of the enemy were seized with panic. Pandemonium broke loose in the port. Ships, barges, tugboats, cutters, row-boats and even rafts were overloaded with guns. Frightened out of their wits the Germans rushed in crowds to the piers. The Rumanians were given no space, although the evacuation was effected on Rumanian ships. The Germans pushed the Rumanians off the gangways and from the decks.

Our aircraft were hanging over the port and roads day and night, bombing and strafing ships, barges, trains and motorized columns. The heaviest raid was carried out on the night of April 8, Soviet fliers smashing or setting fire to several enemy trains and a number of ships in port. The coastal railway and the graveled road to Ovidiopol, jammed with troop trains, truck columns and cart trains, were bombed and strafed continuously. Groups of Germans and Rumanians beating a disorderly retreat from Odessa to the Dniester estuary crossings were intercepted and dispersed or wiped out by mobile detachments of Soviet tanks, cavalry, motorcyclists and tommy gunners. Germans and Rumanians who tried to make their way to the west and southwest encountered our tanks or mounted patrols.

Meanwhile our units continued their attacks on the outskirts of Odessa from the north, northwest and west. Under cover of tanks, tommy gunners infiltrated the seaboard section of the city, massed in

houses, backyards and alleys and at night attacked the port. Ships, cutters and barges hastily sailing out of the port were surprised by the fire of our guns and mortars from Peresyp suburb.

Germans and Rumanians who remained in the port were wiped out or dispersed by our tommy gunners. Street skirmishes continued throughout the night in the center of Odessa—on Deribassovskaya street, in the streets and alleys of the Moldavanka district, in the Krivaya Balka suburb and on the western outskirts of the city. German and Rumanian detachments still held the southern section of the town and the seaboard boulevards, barring the way of our troops to the shore, which enemy ships were trying to approach to evacuate their troops.

But by noon, April 10, Odessa was completely cleared of the Germans and Rumanians, who ransacked the city, but failed to burn down or demolish it.



A submarine chaser of the Black Sea Fleet hurls depth charges at an enemy sub

Self-Propelled German Land Torpedo on Display in Moscow

One of the latest weapons on display at the Moscow Exhibit of Captured German Armament is a self-propelled land torpedo recently seized by the troops of the Second Baltic Front. The torpedo, electrically controlled through a wire some two kilometers long, contains 30 to 40 kilograms of explosives which can be electrically ignited. It was designed for use against tanks.

AT THE FRONTIER

By Ilya Ehrenburg

We are at the Rumanian line. Thus ends that jackal Antonescu's march to the Volga. Was it so long ago the Rumanian "academicians" asserted that the entire territory between the Prut and the Caucasus was inhabited by "descendants of Daco-Rumanians?" Was it so long ago that the Rumanian pimps "joined" the southern Ukraine to Bucharest? Now they are scurrying along the roads of Rumania. And nothing can save them.

We know that the ignorant and poverty-stricken peasants of Rumania were nothing but cannon-fodder for Hitler. They did not read the arrogant disquisitions on "greater Rumania." What they dreamed of was not Novorossisk, but a dish of corn mush. We do not identify these peasants with the rapacious and venal "boyars." Neither do we identify the Rumanian thieves with the pure-bred Aryans, with the millions of Prussian, Bavarian and Saxon bandits who came to our country for "living space."

But we remember what the Rumanians did in Russia. We remember how they asphyxiated citizens of Odessa with gases in the catacombs. We remember how they devastated the Cossack villages of the Kuban. We remember the sacred stones of Sevastopol.

We did not molest the Rumanians. We did not wish them evil. They came to our country. They stained their hands with the blood of our women. Even now they are defiling the avenues of the Crimea. The jackal is not a tiger, but he follows after the tiger. And the jackal will get what he deserves. Antonescu hoped to snatch a little on the sly. Let him not hope to slip away on the sly. Burned villages are not broken wine-glasses, and blood shed by the miscreants is not wine. They sought for mythical "descendants" on our territory. We shall seek out real robbers on theirs.

Rumania is only a vestibule, a corridor. We are making for Germany and we'll get there. It is vain for Hitler to place his hopes in the Rumanian door-keepers or Hungarian commissioners: a thief clings to a thief, but a thief will not die for a thief. It was vain for Hitler to think he could hide behind frontier posts; he himself overturned them on June 22, 1941.

It is vain for Hitler to put his trust in rivers, mountains or distances. The Red Army has marched from Vladikavkaz to Rumania. If Hitler still has the courage to look at a map, he will find that two-thirds of the road has already been traversed.

The Red Army has entered Rumania. The Germans need no comment to understand what this

means. When the words, "The court is coming," were uttered in Kharkov, three Germans drew themselves up to attention—three butchers, three wretched representatives of the murder van—the Reich. When they hear the words, "The Red Army is coming!" the Germans will leap to their feet. The Fuehrer may babble about spring thaws, but the Germans are now thinking of something else, of the hour of reckoning.

Russians are magnanimous and kind-hearted. But let not the German butchers count on the Russians' kindness. We are too kind-hearted to forget the terrible evil the fascists have done mankind. We are too magnanimous to forgive the villainy of the Fritzes. The overcoats of our soldiers, reeking with the smoke of burned villages of the Ukraine and Byelorussia, remind them of their woe. Before the eyes of our soldiers hover frightful scenes—trenches, pits and gullies filled to the brim with slaughtered children.

When we were retreating we said, "The Hitlerites must not live!" The invaders laughed at our grim vow. But they don't feel like laughing now, the accursed child-slayers. Let them remember that we are marching westward with this same vow, "They must not live!"

It is vain for Hitler to hope to frighten the world with the Red Army's advance. All nations enslaved by the Germans, all honest and pure-hearted people, look upon the Red Army as the return of life. We are not out for foreign territory. It is not the desire for gain that is driving our men forward, but love of their land, love of mankind, a deep sense of justice and a yearning for a genuine and just peace.

It is an army of knights that is marching westward, an army of champions of liberty.

Members of Mendeleyev Russian Chemical Society Decorated

The Mendeleyev Russian Chemical Society recently celebrated its 75th anniversary. On this occasion the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet awarded orders and medals to a number of workers of the Society, including Academicians Alexei Favorsky, Nikolai Zelinsky and Peter Budnikov, and the custodian of Mendeleyev's archives, Maria Mendeleyeva, daughter of the celebrated scientist.

The awards were made in recognition of the fruitful activities of the Society in the development of chemical science.

Lavrinenkov's Escape

Vladimir Lavrinenkov, Hero of the Soviet Union, the famous Smolensk-born air ace, was shot down over the German lines some months ago, just after his 30th "kill"—a Focke-Wulf, which he destroyed by ramming. He escaped, and with the aid of guerrillas made his way back to Soviet-held territory.

Here is his story, as he told it to Major V. Koroteyev of the Red Army.



Major Pokryshkin, Soviet ace, has brought down 53 enemy planes. He has been twice named Hero of the Soviet Union

Radiophoto

I rammed the Focke-Wulf while we were on patrol, covering an advance by our land troops. When my machine began to fall, I pushed back the hood, bailed out and hit the ground before the parachute was fully

open. For a moment I lost consciousness, then felt a sharp pain in the shoulder and heard German speech.

When I opened my eyes I was the center of a crowd of German soldiers. One was unstrapping my parachute, another was going through my pockets, and a third was standing over me with his rifle at the ready. Just then one of our fighters roared low over the ground, its machine guns spitting. The Germans threw themselves flat, but were back a minute later.

* * *

I had no papers on me except a ration card, which recorded my status as a Hero of the Soviet Union and senior lieutenant in a Guards regiment. The Germans put me into a side-car and took me to a village. They let me lie down on some ammunition cases, and a German officer came up.

He asked in excellent Russian: "How did you happen to get shot down?"

At first I thought I wouldn't speak, but at his next question I changed my mind.

"Are you a Communist?" he asked.

Not wanting him to get the idea I was afraid, I said yes, I was a Communist.

Then he offered me a cigarette. I refused. I had my own tobacco. So I wiped the blood off my face and began to smoke.

Then the Nazi said: "We're going to take you to Germany."

I told him not to bother; they could shoot me right where I was. But he said there wasn't any point in shooting a flier like me in a hurry. Then I knew why they weren't beating me up. They considered me quite an important prize, I suppose, and wanted to keep me intact for a bit.

The officer disappeared into a hut. Some women and children were standing a few yards away behind a fence. One of the women whispered: "Will the Red Army come soon?" I told her in about five days.

My chest had been hit, and I was coughing up blood. They put me back in the side-car. The motorcycle bumped badly over the rough road, and that seemed to make the bleeding worse.

* * *

Late that night I was called out for questioning. The interpreter told me I was at the headquarters of a Luftwaffe Corps. So I told him how sorry I was I hadn't known their address before.

Then the German asked: "Have you got many planes?"

"Oh, enough to get along," I said.

"How many aircraft have you shot down?"

"Quite a few."

I was just about all in. The interpreter offered me some food, but I refused. The cross-examination was cut short. I was taken to another room and allowed to lie down on the floor. But I couldn't sleep, although I was dead tired. I couldn't stop thinking about Smolensk and my young brother.

In the morning they gave me some thin soup and a piece of bread. Then I was put in a truck, and an officer told me he'd shoot me if I tried to jump out. The warning was really quite unnecessary. Two thugs sat on each side of me, with their fingers on the trigger. We drove into a town, and I was pushed into a small cell with iron gratings. The walls were covered with inscriptions. I remember one of them was: "A captain awaited his fate here." I broke off a piece of lime and wrote: "Vlad. Lavr."

I had a visit from a hefty German with a bruised face. He turned out to be the pilot of the Focke-Wulf I had rammed. He was quite talkative about the affair. It appeared that his navigator had been killed, the gunner wounded, and the machine was a total loss. I told him I was delighted to hear it, and refused further conversation.

The next day, as I was marched along a street, women ran up and thrust apples into my hands. A boy dropped a cigarette and several plums into my pocket. I spent the night in the commandant's headquarters, and the next morning, with two wounded Red Army men, I was put aboard a plane.

* * *

I was scared we might be bound for Germany, and was planning how I could kill the pilot and the guards before we got to the frontier. But we landed quite soon. It looked like Dnieprodzerzhinsk.

I was brought again for questioning. Two officers from the Luftwaffe intelligence department were sitting behind a table. Before long, the talk turned to politics.

"What are you fighting for?" they asked me. I told them it was for our land, for our country.

"Well, who do you think will win?"

"We will," I said.

"Why do you think so?"

"In our country everybody thinks so."

"But the German army is invincible," they said at the finish. But I told them even they didn't believe that any more.

That evening my two comrades and I were put aboard a train at a small station near Dnieprodzerzhinsk. We were accompanied by two officers with innumerable bags and sacks crammed with stolen goods. The carriage was crowded with officers of all ranks, representatives of German firms and Gestapo men hurrying to get away before they were caught by the Soviet offensive.

This scene of the German retreat gave me a terrific kick, of course. I began to look around. There were two doors opening on opposite sides of the carriage. I tried one with my foot. The two officers were sitting at a small table, drinking brandy.

* * *

We decided to make a dash for it. The next day would be too late—they were taking us to Germany. When the train stopped at one of the stations and the officers went out for a walk we decided on our plan. At about nine the train would be going up a steep gradient. Karyukin and I would jump through one door, and Korolev through the other.

Soon it was dark. Rocking slightly, the train was going at medium speed. We pretended to be asleep. I snored peacefully, but in fact I was trying to gauge the speed of the train. At last the train slowed down and began to labor up the gradient. I nudged my comrades, put out my leg and pressed the door. It gave way. I leaped, and felt myself flying through the cool night air. Karyukin jumped after me.

We both rolled down the embankment and felt no pain at the fall, although it was later discovered that Karyukin had sprained his arm and I had bruised myself badly. We heard shots. Korolev was nowhere about. Evidently he had no time to open the door. Karyukin and I clasped hands so as not to lose each other in the darkness, and set off. We ran and walked nearly all night. Just before sunrise we came on a haystack, and went to sleep in the straw. When we awoke we saw an elderly peasant working in a field nearby. He was frightened at the sight of us, but we managed to calm him down, and got him to give us some old clothes and food.

We walked for six days in the direction of Poltava. I figured it was the shortest way to the front line. We got to the Dnieper, and an old boatman rowed us across. By that time the corns on my feet were giving me such hell I could hardly move. I collapsed about 200 yards from the river bank. Karyukin dragged me behind some bushes. After a time I managed to get up, and with great difficulty we reached Komar-

(Continued on page eight)

Ukrainian Cities Arise From Ruins

By Arkadi Eventov

The Ukrainian State Institute for City Planning, which had its headquarters in the House of Projects in Kharkov, was known before the war for its extensive plans for the reconstruction of many old cities in the Ukraine and other areas of the USSR. At the time of the German invasion, the Institute was hard at work on plans for the enlarging and landscaping of cities and workers' suburbs in the Donets Coal Basin, heart of the Soviet coal industry. The attention of the Government and the country at large was centered on this project.

The Nazi vandals barbarously ruined and destroyed many cities of the Ukraine. Among the innumerable buildings demolished was the Kharkov House of Projects. But scarcely after the Germans were driven out of Kharkov the workers of the Institute who had been evacuated returned to the city. They took up quarters in a small half-shattered building, the windows of which were boarded up with plywood. I recently interviewed Vladimir Novikov, Director of the Institute, in his office.

"We've already begun work on the rehabilitation of Ukrainian cities destroyed by the occupationists," Novikov said. "We shall do everything possible to insure that public buildings, dwellings, squares and streets are artistically and architecturally more beautiful than before the war.

"A brigade of research workers of the Institute is now planning the reconstruction of Stalino and

Voroshilovgrad, two of the large industrial centers of the Donets Basin, as well as Kharkov, second capital of the Ukraine, old Poltava, Artemovsk and other cities.

"The occupationists methodically destroyed Stalino. The largest buildings in this capital of the Donets Coal Basin were destroyed. Our task is to design new structures around the buildings still standing, to lay out new streets, squares and parks. The plan for Stalino calls for many improvements. Industrial sites will be transferred to the suburbs and a large number of parks in various parts of the city will form green belts around these sites.

"For Kharkov new streets, broad squares, parks, river embankments and architectural ensembles are being outlined. The House of State Industry, the House of Projects and the House of Cooperatives will be rebuilt shortly. A new station for the southern railway lines will be constructed. It is suggested that this station be planned in a monumental style, to symbolize the liberation of the Ukraine from the German invaders.

"Our Government is not waiting for the end of the war to begin reconstruction," Novikov concluded. "At present huge sums are being expended for the rehabilitation of our cities, and work is going ahead on a large scale and with great speed."

Konstantin Simonov's New Novel on Stalingrad

The Soviet magazine *Znamya* has begun publication of a new novel, *Days and Nights*, based on the glorious defense of Stalingrad. The author is 28-year-old Konstantin Simonov, Stalin Prize Winner, playwright and poet. Simonov's play *The Russian People* is now running in various theaters of the USSR.

Many poems and songs on the defense of Stalingrad have been written in the USSR in the past year, but Simonov's novel is the first long literary work depicting the great Volga battle.

In the early days of the war the poet Simonov became a war correspondent for the Red Army's central newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*. There is scarcely a sector on the entire Soviet-German front which he has not visited during battles. He has received two decorations and was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Formerly known only as poet, Simonov began to work in all literary genres during the war. Two

plays, three motion-picture scenarios, more than 200 poems and hundreds of short stories, and finally the novel on Stalingrad, represent his wartime output.

The novel begins during the first days of the Stalingrad struggle, when the Germans had reached the town, broke through to the bank of the Volga, cut off the 62nd Army and surrounded one of its Divisions. The author adheres strictly to historical fact and his heroes are actual heroes of Stalingrad, the officers and soldiers of this Division. He portrays their lives, their emotions, the incredible hardships which they endured during the many weeks of resistance, and their final victory in the unequal battle.

40th Anniversary of *The Cherry Orchard*

The Moscow Art Theater recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of its production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. The play has never been absent from the theater's repertoire since the first performance.

Myopia of German Tank Designers

By Alexander Morozov

Alexander Morozov, Hero of Socialist Labor, is the designer of the T-34 Tank.

The Germans miscalculated in the matter of the tank, the classic machine of their conquests. How could they have done so, with their old and tried technique? And yet they did.

The result was that they had to renew their stock of tanks to the extent of 50 per cent after the first months of the war. Not so long ago the German brigands broadcast to the world that for a maneuvering blitzkrieg it was enough to put up a mailed fist of 30,000 tanks, and nobody would be able to withstand the horror. That was what they were counting on when they threw themselves on our country. German precision did not foresee the kind of people they would have to deal with.

The development of military technique is a constant competition between the armor and the shell. The Germans' idea was to wage war with a heavy weight of armored tank forces, but they failed to take into account the force of resistance. For instance, they did not reckon on the multifirmity of our resistance. And they never imagined that our Kharkov tank plant would be transferred to the rear.

Yes, the force of resistance! Besides the force of the shell, of the artillery, of the anti-tank rifle, all of which have developed so greatly during the war, there is another force—the force of the soul of the

Soviet people. The designers and operators of the German tanks no doubt thought this soul was as sickly as the souls of many people in Europe whom they had succeeded in frightening. The German designers, their minds littered with "theories," were so near-sighted they lost the sense of reality.

While I was in Kharkov during the first weeks of the war, I saw and studied the German tanks which fell into our hands. I remember how surprised I was to find in them benzine engines, taken over from the automobile. The Germans had created the Diesel engine, and yet they put an imperfect engine into a battle machine. That is why so many of their tanks were set ablaze by our fire. We put in our tank a Diesel engine, using an inexpensive fuel that burns but is not inflammable.

The Germans, in building their tanks, reckoned on a blitzkrieg. They counted only on the force of the blow, on speed along a straight line. They reckoned on reaching the Urals in two months.

And the result? Now they cannot depend on the reserve stocks plundered in Europe. They must depend entirely on the daily output of their war plants. For this, however, they lack labor power. The "slaves" imported by force into Germany do not, of course, work properly. And we, whom they attacked so perfidiously, notwithstanding all the terrible difficulties are producing in our plants several times more tanks than we did before the war, and the maneuvering capacities of our tanks are still better.

LAVRINENKOV'S ESCAPE

(Continued from page six)

kovka, where an old farmer called Ivan Shevchenko gave us shelter. We slept in a haystack. Shevchenko's wife cut my corns, rubbed my feet with ointment and bandaged them with rags.

We asked the old man whether there were any guerrillas in the neighborhood. He was evasive at first, but then told us to walk towards Bakhmach to a point where the wagon ruts turned off into a wood to the right of the road. "Walk along the tracks," he said. We took his advice, and after walking through the woods for half an hour were stopped by a patrol. We were taken to the commander of a guerrilla detachment, who questioned us closely and then said:

"O.K. We'll take you into the detachment."

For several days both of us rested. Then the commander—he turned out to be Ivan Kuzmich Primak, of the Chapayev detachment—gave us each a carbine and a pair of hand grenades. In the next few weeks we took part in many guerrilla operations, blowing up bridges, sinking barges laden with grain, capturing herds of cattle that the Germans were driving westward, freeing captive Soviet people, wrecking cars and firing supply trains.

In one of the skirmishes Karyukin was killed. The guerrillas buried him under a tall oak tree in the forest.

At last the Chapayev detachment joined up with regular Red Army troops on the offensive, and soon I was back with my unit.

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FRITZES FROM THE WEST

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Hitler is doing his best to justify himself in the eyes of Germans. He swears he hasn't transferred a single new Fritz to the Eastern front. He vows that it is the events in Italy which prevent him from opposing the Russians at the Prut. The *Nazionale* writes: "The Russians thought in vain to harm us by their offensive. We have not removed a single soldier from Italy or France. . . ."

In other words, in order to retain the ruins of the

Benedictine Abbey at Monte Cassino, Hitler has relinquished the whole of the Ukraine with its wheat, iron and manganese. That will no doubt make even the stupidest Fritz smile.

Before me lies a pile of unmailed letters which the German field postal service discarded in Ulanov, in the Vinnitsa Region. I shall be immodest enough to supplement Hitler's statements by a few quotations from these German letters.



Covered by a smoke screen, Soviet self-propelled guns move up for a surprise blow at the enemy flank

Unterofficer Karl Kreidel writes Fraulein Michalke in Gleiwitz: "This is the second month I am in Russia. From France I was sent to Italy, then to the Balkans. And now I am here—on the move. . . ." Oberfeldwebel Bruer writes to his fiancée's parents in Larback, Harz: "I have been in France and Italy. Besides two iron crosses I now have a Croatian decoration. I don't know what awaits me in Russia. . . ." The first letter was dated March 3, the other March 7 of this year.

Apparently when Hitler spoke of Monte Cassino he meant Vinnitsa. He sent his Fritzes to the east, and it was by no wish of the Fuehrer that the Fritzes beat a hasty retreat to the west, discarding their epistolary lucubrations. The state of mind of these nomadic Fritzes may be judged by the following admissions:

Corporal Knol writes to his aunt in Cologne. "This war must be ended soon, as none of us can stand it any longer. I can't, at any rate. Otherwise we will all perish. Everything is already kaput. What is

going to happen next?" When Fritzes who are taken prisoner declare that everything is kaput, we don't believe them. But when a Fritz writes to his aunt that it's all kaput, that is more interesting. It means that soon it will be really kaput for them.

Oberfeldwebel Bruer was a novice in Russia. He hadn't yet had time to look around him. He hadn't yet sobered up after the Italian and Dalmatian wines. He could still wonder what awaited him in the Ukraine. But Corporal Warwing knows. He wrote his parents in Frankfurt on March 8: "Any day we expect the blow to be struck, as the Russians have broken through on a neighboring sector. It will go hard with us then. I only hope for one thing—to get out of this hell. . . ."

Corporal Warwing very likely dreamed of making the same journey as Oberfeldwebel Bruer and Unterofficer Kreidel, only in the opposite direction, and to find himself in Trouville or Nice, or at worst in Monte Cassino. But the Red Army has its funny little ways: Germans who come to our country cease to migrate and settle down forever—in the grave.

At the Frontier of Czechoslovakia

On April 8, Major P. Lidov, PRAVDA correspondent, interviewed Brigadier Heliodor Pika, in connection with the Red Army's reaching the frontiers of Czechoslovakia. General Pika said:

I am happy today, not only because the front has drawn close to Czechoslovak territory, but also because this victory has been achieved by the Red Army, our most powerful and most loyal ally. This is a historic moment in the fight of the anti-Hitler coalition in general, against the German-fascist aggressors. What Czechoslovaks aspired to long before the war has been realized: we have become real neighbors of the USSR, and I think that no one and nothing will ever separate us again.

The USSR is the first of our Allies to come to liberate the people of Czechoslovakia from the German enslavers, and that is something we will never forget. The Moscow radio is listened to in Czechoslovakia. The great event is already known there. It is now Easter in our homeland and people in Prague, Brno, Uzhgorod and Bratislav will be greeting one another today with the words: "Christ has risen, and our motherland has risen."

Czechoslovaks in our country and abroad are filled today with the most ardent gratitude to the Red Army and its Supreme Command. The Command of the Czechoslovak armed forces requested the Soviet Government to give our troops the opportunity to be among the first liberators of our native land to set foot on its soil. The Red Army Supreme Command assigned General Svoboda's First Czechoslovak

Brigade to act in conjunction with Marshal Zhukov's troops, who were first to reach the Czechoslovak frontier. This is proof of our complete mutual understanding, of our brotherhood in arms and blood.

The German front has been definitely cut in two and henceforth the Carpathians will serve as a barrier not easily to be surmounted between German troops in the north and the troops of Germany and her satellites in the Balkans. The entry of Red Army and Czechoslovak formations on the territory of Czechoslovakia will exercise a great influence on Rumania, as it will create a threat to her rear.

The guerrillas of Slovakia and the Carpathian Ukraine will now receive moral and material support and will intensify their resistance to the Hitlerite invaders. The opportunity for new offensive operations under cover of the Carpathians is opening up.

Today's event will have its repercussions in the most remote future. The war will end happily for us and the traditional brotherhood between the peoples of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, steeled and tempered by war, will remain and develop. I believe in a bright future for my people, backed by the friendship of the USSR. Without this friendship we might soon again be faced by the danger of German aggression.

I envy those Czechoslovak soldiers and officers who will have the happiness to be the first to kiss our native soil.

REPLY TO DEFENDERS OF POLISH IMPERIALISM

By N. Malinin

The following article appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number Seven, April 4, 1944:

The Polish emigre government, having suffered a diplomatic defeat in its attempts to enlist the support of the governments of Great Britain and the United States for its predatory claims, is now doing its utmost to arouse public opinion in those countries against the Soviet Union. Its propaganda agents are publishing numerous pamphlets and leaflets with falsified statistical data, falsified history and falsified geography.

Nor is it hard for the Polish emigrant propagandists to get the sympathy of all sorts of reactionary anti-Soviet isolationists and pro-fascist circles. These circles are always willing to seize upon any pretext, however flimsy, if only they can make use of it to bolster up their anti-Soviet propaganda, disrupt co-operation among the United Nations and the unity of their war efforts. The Polish propagandists, however, do not confine themselves to these circles, but seek to penetrate liberal and democratic groups, trying to play on their emotions by pretending to speak in behalf of allegedly wronged Poland, and appealing to their sense of fair play and democratic principles—"the spirit of the Atlantic Charter," etc.

They gamble on the lack of acquaintance of Englishmen and Americans with the so-called Polish problem, a lack of acquaintance which is partly due to the fact that England and America are actually uninterested in that problem.

Recently the propagandists of the Polish emigre government have even succeeded in obtaining the support of a whole "group of 36" American intellectuals—professors, lawyers, clergymen and journalists—among whom we find even the name of so well-known a liberal as William Agar. This group signed an appeal addressed to the Soviet Government, in which it proffers the "friendly" advice that the Soviet Government should yield to the imperialist demands of the Polish emigre government.

This group is assuring us that it regards Soviet Russia's close cooperation as a cornerstone of victory and lasting peace, that it favors the utmost assistance to Russia and the widest cooperation with her, at the same time expressing apprehension that in case the Soviet Government does not hearken to its advice and refuses to yield to the Polish claims, it may forfeit the good-will of many Americans (apparently of this group in the first place). It even tries to explain its appeal by the contention that further silence might play into the hands of the isolationists and Russia's enemies in America.

We do not know to what extent all those who signed the appeal are justified in claiming that their attitude toward the Soviet Union is free from bias and prejudice. We grant, however, that some of them really favor co-operation and unity of action among the United Nations, but owing to a certain naivete have swallowed the stories of Polish propagandists and have placed themselves at their service. We should like, therefore, to give a friendly reply to their appeal, the more so since their arguments are typical of all those who come out in defense of Polish imperialism.

To begin with, permit us, gentlemen, to reply to some of the minor arguments invariably figuring in pro-Polish articles on such occasions and reproduced in your appeal.

You deem it necessary, for instance, to make a special point of crediting Poland with being the first country to check Hitler on his road to bloodless victories. Permit us to remind you that Poland was the first country to effect a rapprochement with Hitlerite Germany, that despite her alliance with France and behind the latter's back she concluded with Germany a pact of non-aggression which did not contain the usual clause: that the pact loses its power in case of aggression against a third country.

Further, Poland was the first country to begin an active struggle against all plans for the organization of collective resistance to Hitlerite aggression, and to undermine the League of Nations. By her entire policy, and as much as her strength permitted, she cleared the way for Hitler's bloodless victories. Poland showed a sympathetic attitude to Hitler's occupation of Austria and later of Czechoslovakia, and even partook in the territorial spoliation of the latter.

Poland, relying on Britain's guarantee, came out against Hitler and tried to offer resistance to him only when he infringed on her own immediate interests and demanded Danzig and the Corridor for himself. Poland paved the way for Hitler's bloody victories over Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium and France, because with the megalomania characteristic of her she overrated her own armed strength and rejected the military assistance offered her by the Soviet Union—the only country which together with her could have really checked Hitler's advance and perhaps have even saved Poland from such a quick collapse.

In your appeal you further refer to the sufferings which Poland has endured. Yes, Poland has indeed drained the cup of suffering to the dregs. But no smaller, if not greater, sufferings have fallen to the lot of the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the entire Soviet

Union. It is, however, hardly worth while making comparative measures of the torrents of "blood, tears and sweat" shed by all these peoples. If Poland's sufferings entitle her to any rights, there are certainly no less grounds for the Ukrainian and Byelorussian people to claim such rights.

But let us proceed to essentials. From our Soviet viewpoint, what you are suggesting is that we cede to the Poles territories which according to the Soviet Constitution are a constituent part of the Soviet Union by virtue of the freely-expressed will of the local population. We suspect, however, that you repudiate this argument. You are prepared to recognize popular votes under conditions of the semi-fascist regimes in Poland, Rumania and other such states, but not a vote on the basis of the democratic Soviet Constitution. We shall therefore try to use such language and such arguments as will be more acceptable to you.

And so we want to explain to you that in taking up the cudgels on behalf of the Polish emigre government you are defending claims which by no means concern Polish lands, but territory largely inhabited by Ukrainians and Byelorussians—by no means "hereditary Polish" but hereditary Russian lands.

True, there were moments in history when the use of force brought sections of the Byelorussians and Ukrainians under the sway of Lithuania and Poland. But, we may ask, why should these moments be regarded as historically ideal, and not those when all Byelorussians and Ukrainians lived united under the firmament of a single state? Without in the least justifying the partitions of Poland at the end of the 18th Century, as a result of which Poland lost her independence as a state, we cannot, however, regard as unfair that part of them which permitted the Ukrainians and Byelorussians to cast off Polish domination and re-unite with their brothers across the frontier. It is, however, hardly necessary, nor can it serve any purpose, to go back far into the past and reconstruct a situation that existed in the 14th, 15th, 16th and even 18th Centuries. We need only mention that for over a hundred years prior to the First World War all the Ukraine and all of Byelorussia, including the sections to which the Polish emigre government now lays claim, were part of Russia.

The Tsarist government pursued a policy of Russification in those territories. The October Revolution and the subsequent policy of the Soviet Government put an end to that system and accorded Byelorussia and the Ukraine full independence, including the right to secession. Even the worst enemies of the Soviet Union will not dare to deny that all its nations enjoy equal rights and the opportunity to fully satisfy their cultural requirements and aspirations.

The unity of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian peoples was broken up again as a result of Pilsudski's attack on the Ukraine, and the Riga Treaty that followed. The Soviet Government at the time had its hands full completing the liquidation of the intervention and was compelled to make territorial concessions and to agree to the annexation of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia to Poland. The frontier fixed by the Riga Treaty again divided both the Byelorussian and Ukrainian people into two parts, with eight million out of 40 million Ukrainians and three million out of 10 and one-half million Byelorussians finding themselves under Polish rule.

Although that boundary was regarded as obviously unfair even by the Western powers hostile to the Soviet Union, who suggested the so-called Curzon line instead, the Soviet Government as a peaceful government put up with it for a long time, hoping to establish good-neighborly and friendly relations with its Polish neighbor. Those hopes did not materialize.

The most dissatisfied with that boundary were of course the Ukrainians and Byelorussians, who became victims of national and economic oppression under the Polish regime. The Polish state, far from lending any support to the national culture of minorities, closed hundreds of Byelorussian and Ukrainian schools. Both in Western Byelorussia and the Western Ukraine there was established a severe police regime, with drumhead courts-martial, tortures and the like. The Ukrainian peasantry was the victim of particularly cruel oppression. Its discontent often burst forth in the form of spontaneous struggle, numerous acts of sabotage, burning of landowners' estates, tearing up of railways, telegraph wires, etc. No punitive expeditions or firing squads could check the revolutionary movement in the Western Ukraine, directed against the yoke of the Polish landowners and the Polish state.

Then came 1939—when Poland was invaded by Hitler's troops, who in about two weeks overran nearly the whole of Poland. The Polish government and army command vanished and Poland actually ceased to exist as a state. Western Byelorussia and the Western Ukraine remained for some time a sort of no man's land, and would have soon been occupied by Hitlerite troops if the Soviet Government had not then decided to take under its protection the territories inhabited by Ukrainians and Byelorussians and save them from Hitlerite occupation.

In connection with these events, Polish propagandists are wont to speak about the Soviet attack on Poland, about the "stab in the back," and to indulge in other such miserable talk. The fact, however, is that the Soviet Union never attacked Poland, but took back what actually no longer belonged to Poland, what by right belonged to the Soviet Union and

(Continued on page eight)

Typical of the widespread devastation of occupied Soviet areas are these photographs of the ancient city of Roslavl after the rout of the Germans in 1943. This beautiful public square was reduced to a shambles



Roslavl, an important communications center on the main road to Warsaw, was strongly fortified by the Germans. But the Red Army shattered their powerful defenses. Here are German planes brought down in the suburbs of the city



The Roslavl railway station after the German retreat. During the occupation, thousands of citizens perished of hunger, cold and disease, and countless numbers were murdered by the Nazi police



We Shall Build a Greater Donbas

By Professor Alexander Terpigorev

It is said that during his Azov campaign Peter I, seeing pieces of sparkling anthracite, remarked: "This will be of outstanding use to our descendants, if not to us." Peter's words have come true.

The Don Basin possesses huge resources of coal. Yet up to the middle of the 19th Century, owing to the backwardness of Tsarist Russia, its industrial importance was trivial, the average annual output being considerably lower than the average daily output before the present war.

The coal resources of the USSR total 1,654 billion tons. The Soviet Union is second only to the United States in these vital fuel resources. Although the coal resources of the Donbas are less than those of the Kuzbas, the many-sided character of the former basin facilitates the extraction of coal on a vast scale. This explains the considerable share of the Donbas in the fuel balance of the Soviet Union. Before the present war this share amounted to 45 per cent. The basin contains coal in abundant variety, from coking coal to anthracite.

In the pre-revolutionary Donbas there were 1,200 mines, of which only 10 had a daily extraction of 1,500 tons, and 200 of about 500 tons. During the Stalin Five-Year Plans a number of large mines were developed with a daily output of up to 5,000 tons, and a number of others with a daily output of 1,500 tons. The cutting of layers—not only slightly inclined but even steep layers—was done by heavy cutting machines. In the steep layers coal was obtained with pneumatic drills. Coal combines were being used and mechanization had turned the mines into underground factories.

The Donbas was the birthplace of the Stakhanov movement. Adoption of Stakhanov methods multiplied the productivity of cutting machines and pneumatic drills by five to six times. In 1940 the Donbas accounted for 57 per cent of the entire coal output in the Soviet Union. The Donbas mines were 95 per cent mechanized, with over 13,000 cutting machines and pneumatic drills. The surface structures measured six and one-half million cubic yards.

The Germans, during their occupation and retreat, completely destroyed the coal industry of the Donbas, but restoration work is going ahead swiftly.

Restoring Flooded Mines

Pumping the water from flooded mines is a tremendous task in itself. The scale of underground restoration work may be seen from the following: The length of underground tunnels in a mine often

amounts to several dozen kilometers. These tunnels have been flooded and destroyed. It is very difficult to go from the surface into the underground sections of the mine through the so-called necks of the narrow mine shafts, since these have been destroyed or blown up, and the shafts, in addition to being flooded, are frequently blocked.

The water is being pumped out at a rapid rate and restoration work on the surface is in full swing. The yards are being cleared of debris, temporary technical installations are being set up and damaged ones repaired; surface buildings are under construction, and underground machinery and ventilators are being installed.

Underground extraction in the mines of the future is visualized in a new way. The most highly perfected machines will be employed, and automatic mechanisms and distant control widely applied.

In the few months since the liberation of the Donbas, work has been resumed by the electric power stations which supply energy for many large mines. The mines are in turn producing coal for industry and transport, overfulfilling their output program. In the six months since the Germans were driven out of the Donbas, the miners have extracted four times as much coal as the Germans obtained. We feel confident that we shall soon liquidate the effects of Nazi occupation of the Donbas.

Plans for Restoration of Smolensk

Academician of Architecture Georgi Goltz, Stalin Prize Winner, has returned to Moscow from Smolensk where he planned the restoration of this ancient Russian city. The architect arrived in Smolensk five days after its liberation, while the town was still in flames, and spent several months there.

"It will be necessary to build the town anew, as the fascists completely destroyed 8,200 out of the 9,000 houses," Goltz stated.

"But despite the enormous damage the general aspect of the city has been preserved, as the walls of the ancient Kremlin and several churches are standing. According to our plan, Smolensk is to be rebuilt in its former old Russian style. The ancient monuments are being carefully restored. Our studio has made several hundred designs of dwellings in an effort to discover the most perfect type. There will be many more parks and squares according to the new plan, and a belt of greenery will surround the Kremlin walls."

Maria Melnikaite, Lithuanian Heroine

From the first days of the invasion, German bombs and shells set fire to Lithuanian towns and villages. The Nazis tried to break the resistance of the Lithuanians by wholesale massacres of the peaceful populations of Kaunas, Vilnius, Ukmergė and other cities. But the Lithuanian people, who for over two centuries stubbornly fought the Teutonic Knights of the Cross, had no intention of submitting to the descendants of the robber barons—the Hitlerite bandits.

Stimulated by the Red Army's victories, the guerrilla movement has grown to such dimensions that the usual German punitive expeditions are unable to cope with them. The invaders now send regular troops with artillery, tanks and aircraft, who fire the villages and slaughter the inhabitants. The fame of the "Zalgiris," "Margiris," "Vilnius," "For Country" and other guerrilla detachments has spread over all Lithuania. The growing German terror—and on the other hand, the hope of early liberation—are bringing hundreds of thousands of new members into the guerrilla ranks.

Among these recruits to the guerrillas was a girl—Maria Melnikaite—whose name will be forever remembered by the Lithuanian people. Maria was born in 1923 in Zarasai, one of the most beautiful towns in eastern Lithuania. Daughter of a mechanic, she knew the misery of poverty from her childhood. In winter she attended the elementary school and in summer worked for rich farmers, herding cattle or caring for children.

It was only under the Soviet Government that Maria had an opportunity to satisfy her passion for education. She attended evening courses and read a great deal. But she was not allowed to enjoy this happiness long—her beautiful native town was one of the first to be reduced to ruins by the invading Germans.

Like many other young men and girls unable to escape, Maria went underground. The Germans established their brutal regime in Lithuania, daily shooting and hanging the finest sons and daughters of the country or shipping them to slavery.

Maria at once began to rally the young people to fight the Germans. News filtered through of the defeat of the German army at Moscow, then at Stalingrad. As hope of liberation mounted, the resistance of the people in Lithuania grew steadily. German trains began to roll down embankments, and military stores shot into the air. The guerrillas were elusive. The Germans increased the terror against the population, and the tide of blood and tears rose.

Maria, one of the most active guerrillas of the underground, commanded a regular detachment. Her

courage, fortitude and faith in victory were an inspiration to her young comrades. When her detachment was surrounded by Germans near a river swollen by spring rains, she ordered her comrades to escape by swimming the river. Always first to set an example, she threw herself into the icy water and reached the opposite bank safely. The others followed and all were saved.

The fame of the mysterious girl guerrilla spread to the German ranks, but they were unable to discover her identity. She fought in numerous engagements, boldly challenging the German punitive expeditions.

On July 8, 1943, Maria and five of her comrades set out on an assignment. German punitive groups which had long been searching for her detachment found her trail. Maria's small group was surrounded in the woods. Inspired by their leader, the Lithuanians fought heroically against the numerically superior enemy. One by one the guerrillas fell, until only Maria was left. She fought on until her last cartridge was spent. Seven fascists had been killed by her bullets. When she had fired her last round she threw her Tommy gun aside and hurled a grenade, killing several more of the enemy.

Severely wounded, Maria attempted to blow herself up with a grenade, but she had not sufficient strength to pull out the pin. She fell into the hands of the Gestapo.

The Germans tortured her, attempting to discover who her comrades were and how they obtained their weapons. "You will learn nothing from me," Maria told them. They broke her fingers, burned the soles of her feet and slashed her breasts. But she bore her martyrdom silently. The death sentence was pronounced. "I fought and I will die for Soviet Lithuania," she said to the hangmen. "But you—German dogs—what are you doing in our country?"

The Germans led her to the gallows set up in the square of the small town of Dukstas. When the noose was placed about her neck, Maria looked at the sky of her native land, then at the villagers who had been driven to the square to witness the execution. Her last words were, "Long live Soviet Lithuania . . . Long live Comrade Stalin!"

This happened on July 13, 1943. The inhabitants of Dukstas will never forget the day. It will be remembered by all Lithuanians. The Soviet Government has conferred the posthumous title of Hero of the Soviet Union upon Maria Melnikaite. Her name has become sacred to the Lithuanian people—a banner leading them in the struggle for victory. It is inscribed in golden letters on the glorious roll of heroes in the fight against fascism.

SOVIET WOMEN IN RAILROAD JOBS

In 1942, 173,000 girls and women—for the most part wives, mothers and sisters of service men—came to work on the railways, to take the place of their men. Special schools were opened for these newcomers, where they had the benefit of instruction by the country's best locomotive engineers and technicians.

These women and girls learned trades formerly considered suitable only for men, and they are now working successfully not only in the interior of the country, but on the front-line railways. Braving mortar and artillery fire and air bombings, these intrepid women deliver war materiel to the advanced lines and run hospital trains evacuating the wounded from the danger zone.

Women are handling a great variety of railway jobs. They work as locomotive engineers, firemen, brakemen, dispatchers and station masters, and in every field display great ability and efficiency. There are many train crews consisting entirely of women. One such crew brought 2,300 tons of coal from Siberia to Moscow, a run of 2,500 kilometers, in record time.

Hundreds of women engaged in transport have

been decorated by the Soviet Government for their heroic and selfless work during the war, and a number have received the highest civilian distinction, the title of Hero of Socialist Labor.

'King of Military Marches'

Sixty-three-year-old Major General Semyon Chernetsky has served a quarter of a century in the Red Army as chief of brass bands. Known as the "king of military marches," General Chernetsky has written 125 of the most popular marching tunes, songs and brass-band suites, and as a professor in the Conservatory has trained over 900 orchestra leaders.

Descended from a long line of musicians, General Chernetsky wrote his first march at the age of 13. Later, as a regimental band leader in St. Petersburg he attracted the attention of Glazunov and became a pupil of the famous composer. Chernetsky is composer of the widely popular *Stalingrad March*, *Slav March* and *March of the Defenders of Moscow*. His 125th march is dedicated to the liberation of his native Odessa.

POLISH IMPERIALISM

(Continued from page four)

might otherwise have fallen under the sway of the Hitlerites.

Subsequently, after Hitler's attack on the USSR, those provinces were again occupied by Germans. Poland cannot eject the Germans from there either with her own forces or with the help of any other force than the Red Army. Only the Red Army can do it, and is doing it at the cost of extreme exertion of military efforts and enormous sacrifice.

Now, do you consider it fair and reasonable that Ukrainians and Byelorussians liberated at such a cost should again be transferred to Polish rule? And should the Soviet Government tell the millions of Ukrainians and Byelorussians fighting in the ranks of the Red Army and taking part in the liberation of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia that their brothers have been liberated not to become united with them, but to be severed from them and once more be cast out beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union, and that they must forever give up all hope of the final union of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian peoples?

Do you sincerely believe that such a solution to the problem would really represent "the triumph of democratic justice" and the "spirit of the Atlantic Charter"? Or is it your opinion that only the Polish people, numbering 25 million, deserves justice; but not the Ukrainian people, numbering 40 million, and the Byelorussian people, numbering 10 million? Do you think that the perpetuation of the dismemberment of these two peoples and their division between two neighboring states will constitute a factor of stability in the new peace in Eastern Europe?

We suggest to you, gentlemen, to ponder the above-mentioned facts and to revise your position in their light; for we are certain that you will see how unfair, undemocratic, unreasonable and unrealistic is the solution of the Polish problem proposed by you. Once you see this, you will have to admit that by defending Polish demands you are giving your support to the unreasonable imperialist claims of reactionary Polish circles; that you are encouraging their tendency to megalomania, which has already caused them so much harm, and besides you are bringing grist to the mills of the isolationists and enemies of harmonious cooperation among the principal United Nations, which is essential for the achievement of our common and speedy victory and for the establishment of a lasting peace.

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On the Southern Front

By Ilya Ehrenburg

"On the southern sector of the Eastern front German counter-measures compelled the Soviet Command to increase its pressure between the Dniester and the Prut," declared the German Information Bureau on April 9. In other words, the Red Army is advancing because it is being forced to do so by German counter-measures! The Germans, when they read that, no doubt began to worry that Hitler's

counter-measures might prove too successful and force the Red Army to go as far as Berlin. . . .

Hitler's pen is clearly not keeping pace with the German grenadiers. Hitler's communique still speaks of the Dniester, but German soldiers know that the Dniester, the Prut and the Seret already lie behind them.



View of the beautiful southern city of Odessa before the German invasion

Odessa, the Russian Marseilles, has been liberated by the Red Army. This beautiful southern city with its straight streets was a city of sailors and poets. It was a gay city; the people were fond of fun and laughter. But on the map of the "new Europe" Odessa became Rumanian. It suffered starvation, humiliation and devastation. Doesn't the plan of that little jackal Antonescu to annex Odessa seem insensate? However, Antonescu was only obeying German orders. Now we are witnessing the sequel: Rumanian graves in Russia, and Russian soldiers in Rumanian cities.

Next will come the turn of the Hungarians. The Red Army is not marching toward the frontiers only to admire the frontier posts. It was not so long ago that the Hungarians were in Voronezh. Now the Red Army is in the foothills of the Carpathians. Maybe the Hungarians think the Germans came to their country to save them. But the Germans came to strip them. The Germans are true to their traditions: before murdering their victim, they strip him.

Jackals do not understand the human language, but perhaps they will understand the language of shells. When we said we would surely come for them, the thieves laughed. They don't feel like laughing now: we have come for them. A couple of years ago the Rumanian newspaper *Timpul* wrote: "When they gaze at the fields and orchards of the Ukraine, the Rumanian soldiers smile. They have a wide choice." Now the Rumanians and Hungarians have a narrow choice: they can surrender or perish.

However, these are only small fry. To enter the house you have to mount the steps. Big gangsters have their janitors. We are marching on Berlin. But a straight path is not always the shortest; sometimes you have to make a detour. But whatever turns we may make, it is Berlin we're heading for.

The Red Army is at the frontiers of Czechoslovakia. It is beginning the liberation of Europe. April 8, 1944 is a reply to March 15, 1939. I remember that spring of shame. Many Frenchmen, when they read reports that Slovakia had "seceded," that the Germans were in Prague, that the Carpathian Ukraine had been annexed to Hungary, did not realize that these geographical names so difficult to pronounce concealed the rattling panzers already preparing to trample down the vineyards, the champagne and the fields of Normandy. Czechoslovakia was the first victim of the greed of some and the cowardice of others. Perhaps it is an act of historical justice that Czechoslovakia, the first country to be subjugated by Hitler, is the first to hear the thunder of the guns heralding her liberation.

I have repeatedly said that the fate of Russia is closely bound up with the fate of Europe. Our people want neither the land of others, nor empty glory. We have crossed the frontier because we want to make an end of the brigands who fell upon us. 1914

and 1941 are enough for us. We don't want the Germans to attack Russia in 1965. We want to tear the fangs out of the beast. When the Germans were driven out of Odessa, hope rose in Marseilles. This spring has begun as the spring of Europe.

Hitler is trying to lay the blame for his reverses in Russia upon the situation in Italy. Although I know how stupid the average German is, I still think he will smile ruefully and say: "Have we then forfeited the Ukraine in order to save the ruins of an abbey?"

Hitler is not withdrawing forces from the East. On the contrary, he is continually transferring troops from the West to the East. Among the prisoners we have taken are many who in January or February were on the Riviera or in Brittany. Hitler is withdrawing troops from the Balkans, from Denmark and Norway.

Here is the story of the German 214th Infantry Division. Until March of this year it was in Norway. Says Major Wilhelm Gunkel: "Of course, we didn't have a quiet time in Norway either. Practically every day something went wrong with the German army telephones, the fortification work on the coast was interfered with, or railway tracks laid by our troops were blown up. The Norwegians don't like us. . . . But the worst was yet to come. Lieutenant General Horn, our divisional commander, tried to reassure us by saying: 'We are not going south, but to Narva, where it is safe and quiet. . . .' Several days passed. We thought the Russians would attack in great force, as our newspapers reported. As a matter of fact, the Russians cunningly camouflaged themselves and maneuvered. Russian mortars took a heavy toll of us. Then came the tanks and infantry. Our soldiers began to run away. I had to chase after them, revolver in hand. It was uncanny. It seemed to us the Russians were hiding on our flanks and lying in wait for us in the rear."

Not only is the Red Army liberating cities and regions; it is annihilating the enemy's troops and armaments and paving the road to Germany. It is paving the road for itself and its friends. The roads are there; all that is needed now is to take them. . . .

At the frontier of Czechoslovakia the Czechoslovak troops are fighting together with the Red Army. The Poles are nearing Poland's borders—the fighting Poles, that is, not the pettifogging Poles. The other day I paid a visit to the French airmen of the Normandie Squadron. Among them are "veterans" who came to us in the bitter days of 1942. But there are also "novices." They all know why they are in Russia. Sometimes the longest road is the shortest, and the Normandie airmen see before them the air-drome Le Bourget. . . .

* * *

It is futile for Hitler to assert that "rains and thawing snows" are checking the Red Army's ad-

vance. We are not to be held up by rains or Germans or Hitler's communiques. We have set out on our way. We have come from the Volga to the Seret. We shall go farther.

Now let the Rumanian fiddlers and the Magyar dancers ponder on the voice of Soviet artillery. It is clear that these musical jackasses do not understand the human voice. But perhaps the language of shells will strike home. We are in their home—the home of the Rumanian thief. He has no alternative but to stretch out his hand, or be stretched out altogether. No third choice is granted him.

Commercial traveler Ribbentrop, who is looked up to as the most highly bred of the Berlin gangsters, decided to console his Rumanian menials. So on April 5 he announced that Germany is defending herself on the Dniester, and even incautiously added that the Germans would defend Rumanian territory like Berlin itself. Well, we'll make a note of this: they are going to defend Berlin as they defended the Dniester. That will suit us very well indeed. But it will hardly suit the Rumanians. It is time for the fiddlers to change their tune. Nothing has come of "great Rumania" but Rumanian graves in Russia and Russian soldiers on the Seret, in Dorohoi and Botoshani. If the fiddlers want to save their fiddles, they had better not rely either on the roving Mannstein nor the courtly Ribbentrop nor springtime rains. The

time has come when they must realize that we are not joking.

The Hungarians had better consider what it means to have the Red Army in the Carpathian foothills. This is not the Don, nor Voronezh nor Korotoyak. For five years now the Hungarians have been oppressing the citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic, the Ukrainians and Slovaks in Jasina and Mukaceva, in Uzhgorod and in Kashitsi. Now the time has come to answer for it. Hungarians need not rely on the Carpathians. The Red Army has demonstrated that it finds no obstacles insuperable. We already have our pre-Carpathian Divisions—we will have our Carpathian and trans-Carpathian Divisions.

This is a great day both for us and for our true friends, the Czechoslovakians. Ancient Prague hears the tread of the pre-Carpathian Divisions. True to her word, the elder sister Russia is going to the aid of tormented Czechoslovakia. The Carpathians and green Baskidi have come to life; Tatri is on the alert. Herdsmen and lumberers in the villages of Verkhovina can already hear the booming of the guns: the Russians are coming.

Prague citizens are smiling in Vacslav castle—they know they have not long to wait.

We are moving westward. Rejoice, Prague! Tremble, Berlin the accursed!

SOVIET TACTICS IN THE CRIMEA

Reporting the rapid advance of troops of the Fourth Ukrainian Front in the Crimea, a *Krasnaya Zvezda* correspondent points out that this advance is above all due to the fact that General Tolbukhin's troops aim their blows at the main enemy strongpoints and not at secondary ones.

At the outset of offensive operations Red Army troops inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy. Many enemy units were routed during the break-through of their defenses on the Perekop Isthmus and in the Sivash area. The enemy suffered a still heavier defeat after Soviet troops forced their way to the Crimean expanses and began a relentless pursuit of the fascists.

All this soon affected the German defense and undermined its capacity for stiff resistance. The offensive of our troops developed in such a way that immediately after the capture of the Perekop Isthmus they succeeded in destroying a number of important enemy strongpoints. Such was the case at Dzhankoi, which played an important part in the plans of the German defense. . . .

Taking advantage of the confusion, disorder and

lack of control in the enemy ranks, our troops exerted the utmost efforts to speed up the pursuit and advanced southward still more rapidly. The very fact that our offensive proceeded not in any one sector but simultaneously in several directions especially affected the enemy defense. Some of our troops advanced along the railway to the Kerch Peninsula, others in the direction of the Dzhankoi-Simferopol railway trunk, still others toward Yevpatoria.

The enemy defense cracked in all directions at once. Their Crimean group was torn into several parts. They were compelled to retreat, sustaining tremendous losses. Our troops persistently widened the wedges driven into the German defenses and effectively carried out other no less important tasks—the annihilation of enemy manpower and the capture of equipment and arms. One of our divisions emerged on the enemy flank and cut off his road of retreat. The Germans turned to the west, trying to find an escape, but here too they were intercepted by others of our units, and after the first attacks were split into several isolated groups. These groups tossed from side to side and everywhere fell under the heavy fire of our attacking troops. Enemy losses in this area were tremendous.

IN THE STREETS OF ODESSA

By Major V. Kirsanov and Vadim Sobko

Early one morning, as the bright spring sun rose over the Black Sea and the misty harbor of Odessa, victorious troops of the Red Army marched into the city. Citizens fortunate enough to escape Nazi firing squads or deportation to Germany flocked into the streets to greet their liberators.

* * *

Janitors who had refused to work under the Germans and Rumanians now came out voluntarily with brooms and shovels, sweeping and scrubbing the scarred and scorched but still beautiful city. Red flags appeared over gates and doors. Some were merely strips of bunting hoisted on sticks, but others were beautifully embroidered satin and velvet banners prepared beforehand for the coming of victory and kept carefully hidden from the enemy.

Groups of youngsters were tearing down Rumanian signs. The people who filled the streets were emaciated and sallow, and the men had long beards. For months they had been living underground, not daring to come out into the sun. Most of the time they were hungry. But they had radio sets and they knew the Red Army was approaching.

Now, dazzled by the bright sun, they rejoiced. Strains of song came from Deribasovskaya, one of the main streets. Odessa was awakening from its long nightmare.

Like the rest of the Red Army men, we were invited into the homes of the citizens and showered with questions. The people wanted to know all about the latest victories. Throughout the occupation they had managed to obtain news of the Red Army's advance by means of the communiqués of the Soviet Information Bureau, which were received on hidden radios, written out by hand and distributed in hundreds of copies. No matter what measures the Gestapo and the Siguranza resorted to, they could not keep the truth from spreading among the people.

We walked through the length and breadth of the city, and everywhere saw evidence of the enemy's destructive measures. Odessa was blasted, burned and ravished. Pushkin street was ablaze. Fire brigades, helped by the local population, were struggling to extinguish the fires. The Pushkin Museum, where Russia's great poet worked, was in ruins. Odessa's Young Pioneer Palace was wrecked. All that remained of the handsome building known as the Teachers' Center was a bare skeleton.

Odessa's municipal services were also badly damaged by the enemy, and scores of dwellings and public buildings razed. Many water-pipes were broken and the power stations blasted. Several departments of the machine tool plant, the agricultural machinery

plant, the ship repair yards, the jute factory and other industrial enterprises suffered great damage. During their last days of occupation both Germans and Rumanians began feverishly loading machinery and equipment for shipment to Germany. You can still see dozens of trains loaded with various machinery on the railway lines near the city. The station is crowded with freight cars stocked with plundered property. However, the enemy was not able to carry away these spoils, nor was he able to put into effect his plan of destroying the city. Odessa will live and flourish again.

We found the famed steps which lead to the sea and the harbor intact. As before, they command a beautiful view of the port, which formerly throbbed and pulsed with ceaseless activity. Here the enemy did as much damage as possible. The odor of smoke stung our nostrils; through it we could see the blasted harbor, the wrecked quays and crumbling warehouses. There was not a single vessel in the harbor. Richelieu's bronze arm pointed to a sadly desolate horizon.

The Odessa opera house was known as one of the most beautiful buildings in the Soviet Union. The day before their retreat the Germans mined it, but the arrival of the Red Army forestalled the explosion and the building was saved.

From the first to the last day of their domination in the southern seaport, the Germans and Rumanians pursued a policy of bloody terror. Anti-tank ditches surrounding the city are filled with dead bodies of innocent people. Hardly anyone is able to state even approximately the number of victims. All that people can tell you is that hundreds and thousands of victims were seized in their homes and in the streets and thrust into Nazi prisons and concentration camps. They also tell that day and night they heard shooting from Mulikovo field, where the ground is drenched with the blood of Odessa's innocent citizens.

The inhuman sufferings, great privations and the constant terror had a frightful effect on the people. Most of them have grown old and gray before their time. Many of the youth have become invalids and cripples. The people of Odessa speak of the Germans and Rumanians with burning hatred and horror.

* * *

At the end of the day long columns of the Red Army were still passing through the city streets. The roar of long-range guns and the droning of Soviet hawks overhead sounded continuously. The city is swarming with new ranks of infantry—volunteers who joined the Red Army that morning. Together with our seasoned warriors they will take vengeance on the enemy for what he has done to their country and to Odessa.

Odessa, City of Sailors and Poets

Before the war, Odessa's population of more than 600,000 lived in spacious modern apartment houses and dwellings. The sunny seaport was gay with flowers and greenery and the songs of its music-loving inhabitants



The Odessa State Theater of Opera and Ballet witnessed the rise of many of the Soviet Union's most talented artists. The routed Germans and Rumanians mined the building, but Red Army troops arrived in time to save it



The central section of Odessa, where the business of this formerly rich and busy seaport was carried on. The fascists plundered much of the wealth of the city and wrecked many of its beautiful buildings



ESTONIAN PATRIOTS HARASS GERMANS

The struggle for the liberation of the Estonian Soviet Republic from the German yoke followed directly upon the historic battle for Leningrad. Many square miles of Estonian territory have already been freed.

Before the war, Estonian villages cheered the eye with their clean and orderly appearance. When Soviet troops recently entered one of these villages, only black heaps of ashes remained, with ruined chimneys rising from them. One house was still intact, but even this had been looted. Door-knobs, case-ments and window-bolts had all been removed and the furniture wrecked. Most of the population of the village had been deported by the Germans.

Two Estonian youths who escaped from German-occupied territory and joined the Red Army report that thousands of Estonian farmers have fled to the woods to escape deportation. Sentries posted on the roads inform them of the approach of German troops, whereupon they retreat deeper into the forests. Guerrilla detachments are growing daily. Bridges and railway tracks are constantly destroyed and German garrisons attacked and wiped out.

Although the front is still a long way from Tallinn, the Germans there are already displaying signs of panic. At the end of January an order to the German garrison instructed all officers and men to be prepared to evacuate the city on short notice. Looting has been speeded up. The main factories of Tallinn were long ago shipped to Germany, and now paintings, books and linen are being taken. Not all of this plunder reaches Germany, however; guerrillas send many of the trains over embankments.

Casting off their mask of friendliness, the Nazis are now murdering and deporting civilians on a huge scale. On February 5, 2,000 Estonians forcibly deported to Riga were given poisoned coffee and died after terrible suffering.

* * *

An employee of the phosphorite works in Tallinn escaped from that city on February 7 and a few days later reached the liberated area. Describing the resistance of the Estonians after two and one-half years of Nazi rule, he told of the increasingly frequent attacks on German soldiers and civilians by the Soviet patriots. Unknown hands push the Nazis in front of streetcars and trains. The Germans have placed two patrols on every street, but the killings continue. One German guard was overheard to complain: "I have the feeling that a paving block, a bullet or at least a beating is waiting for me around every corner."

When the Nazis announced a general mobilization of Estonians, many men left Tallinn and hid in the forests and remote villages. To understand the difficulty of this, one must realize that a special permit is required to leave or enter the city. Citizens are not allowed the use of the railways. All schools have been closed and German troops are quartered in the buildings.

Tallinn citizens listen to reports of Red Army victories on home-built radio receiving sets and spread the glad news. Another indication of Red Army successes is the large number of German generals and officials from Luga, Pskov, Kingissep and Narva who have lately appeared in the city.

A worker in the Tallinn power plant, learning that the Red Army had reached the Narva River, said joyfully: "We'll soon become human beings again."

* * *

Numerous guerrilla detachments active in the German-occupied area of the Estonian Soviet Republic are giving substantial aid to attacking Soviet troops. Jacob V., commander of one of these groups, recently described its operations to a Soviet correspondent.

The detachment, formed about a year ago and made up mainly of men from Tallinn, Tartu and Rakvere, has carried out many attacks on Nazi-used railways. At the height of the battle of Leningrad, the guerrillas mined the Kingissep-Narva railway in several places, blowing up a 60-car train carrying German troops and tanks. The Germans opened fire from machine guns mounted on tanks, but the guerrillas silenced the fire with hand grenades and killed several Hitlerite officers who leaped from the train.

Several punitive expeditions have been sent against the guerrillas and on one occasion their headquarters was surrounded for several days. The patriots held their ground against German planes and tanks and finally routed the enemy. Jacob V.'s detachment, which formerly operated in the Kingissep area, has transferred its activities to the interior of Estonia.

A group of guerrillas and villagers who fled from fascist atrocities took refuge in a spot known as "Wolf Island," among almost impassable bogs, luring the punitive detachment after them. When the Germans attempted to cross the marshes, the guerrillas opened machine-gun fire, mowing down several dozen of the enemy. Those who tried to escape were mostly mired down in the bog.

SOVIET SPORTSMEN AT SUKHUMI

Prominent Soviet masters of sport have renewed an old tradition of gathering on the Black Sea Coast to train before the beginning of the summer sports season. This spring the champions and record-breakers of the USSR are meeting in Sukhumi, where the weather is sunny and warm and roses are already in full bloom.



Young acrobats exhibit their skill

On April 11 the first light athletic contests were held. Renowned sportsmen and women, including world record holders Nina Dumbadze and Alexander Pugachevsky, who took part in the defense of Leningrad, and Galina Turova, participated. Record holders Galina Ganiker and Maria Shamanova; wrestler

Johannes Kotkas, ex-champion of Europe; the well-known Soviet runner, Major of the Medical Service Georgi Znamensky, and many others, are also in training at the southern port.

Johannes Kotkas, who combines skill in wrestling with triumphs in light athletics, scored in the shot put, with 13 meters, 67 centimeters. The discus-throwing match was won by a Georgian, Nina Dumbadze, who has trained hundreds of Red Army men in precision grenade throwing. Her husband, Merited Master of Sport Syachkov, won first place in pole vaulting.

Red Army officer Yermolayev, who often participated in spring cross-country runs in France, won the 1,000-meter race in two minutes, 40 seconds, topping the record of Georgi Znamensky.

The two strongest football teams in the USSR, the Soviet champion Dynamo team, captained by Mikhail Yakushin, and the Moscow champion team of the Central Red Army Club, whose captain, Red Army officer Grigori Fedotov is one of the best forwards in the world, are also at Sukhumi. Fedotov recently received from sportsmen in Wales a gift of a football autographed by a number of English players.

Million Soviet Youth Participate in Militarized Swimming Contests

Swimming is one of the most popular forms of sports in the Soviet Union. Water sports courses are an integral part of the curricula at schools and universities. Swimming enters into the physical training program adopted for the Red Army and Navy and goes to make up the complex qualifying tests which must be passed in order to receive the "Ready for Labor and Defense" Badge. According to incomplete figures, almost 10 million persons have received the badge during the past 10 years.

Recently there has been a tendency to emphasize the importance of various militarized forms of swimming. Hundreds of thousands of youths and girls passed tests in swimming with full kit, including rifle, gas mask and hand grenade. They took part in mass 400 and 500-meter swims. Men and women are taught to negotiate water barriers with full bridging equipment or by using logs, boards and straw. Over a million persons participated in militarized competitions of this sort in one year. During 1944 it is expected that swimming and crossing of water barriers will be taught to 500,000 persons, mostly young men of army age and girls who are preparing to enter the Red Army Medical Corps.

Girls Become Skilled Coal Miners

By Marianna Gulbinskaya

The other day I traveled on the miners' train bringing passengers to the settlement of Shchekino, near Moscow, from the outlying coal mines. A party of well-dressed girls crowded into the carriage. They were very gay—exuberant, indeed. The only other passenger, an elderly, staid-looking collective farmer, quite obviously disapproved of them. The liveliest girl of the lot dropped into the seat beside him. She wore a coat and hat of Persian lamb. The farmer sniffed. Yes—perfume.

"Going to town, eh?" he asked the girl, in a far from friendly tone. "Everyone's working, and you're off to enjoy yourselves, I suppose."

"And why not? It's our day off."

There was a pause. Then the old fellow returned to the attack: "Bookkeeper, I suppose?"

This seemed to amuse her. "Now let's get acquainted, or we'll start to quarrel," she said. "My name is Khokhlakova, and I work down in the pit. These are all girls of my shock-brigade."

The old man's sulkiness vanished. It appeared he had already heard of Khokhlakova, and he showered question after question upon the girls.

* * *

I, too, had heard of Khokhlakova. Before the war she used to do odd jobs above ground—she was 25 then, and would never have believed herself capable of going down to work in the pits, much less of handling a drill with the ease of a highly-skilled miner. Today Khokhlakova's shock-brigade is famous all through the Moscow coal basin. Every one of its eight girl members overfulfills her quota. Khokhlakova herself has been decorated by the Government for distinguished labor service.

Since the outbreak of war hundreds of miners' wives, collective farm women and women office workers have gone to work in the pits of the Moscow coal basin, and have mastered the men's trades. Shura Ignatieva works in the shock-brigade led by Starodub, crack miner from the Donbas. When the brigade was evacuating the Donbas 20-year-old Shura, who had lost her family, asked to be taken along. The veteran miners taught her their trade, and now she wields the pneumatic drill as well as anyone. It is an everyday affair for women to operate trolleys or hoist cranes in the pits. They have acquired a fair

knowledge of machinery, and often do the overhauling themselves.

The Miners Union makes every effort to relieve the women miners of household cares. The network of nurseries, kindergartens and dining rooms has been greatly extended throughout the coal basin, and there is hardly a pit without its own laundry.

For overfulfilling her quota by 10 per cent, a woman miner is paid double for the extra output. If she exceeds the 10 per cent, she gets treble. A woman miner has an advantage when it comes to sick benefits. Increased rations of fats and bread and additional hot meals are issued to women miners. There is a special rest home for them. Two months ago Khokhlakova herself spent some time in the miners' rest home in Bobriki.

The Miners Union assists women to qualify for executive positions. The miner Fedulova has become assistant manager of a mine. Paulina Gudkova, who attended a mining engineering school before the war, is now a full-fledged engineer and head of the Miners housing trust.

Schoolteacher Becomes Vice Chairman of Supreme Soviet of Russian SFSR

Maria Sarycheva, recently elected Vice Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, began her working life in 1914 as a schoolteacher in a small village. Fifteen years ago she came to Moscow to take charge of a large factory club. One year later she was appointed manager of a district department of education in the Capital, and in 1937 was put in charge of education for the entire Moscow Region.

For the past four years Sarycheva has been Assistant People's Commissar of Education of the Russian SFSR. She is also Vice Chairman of the Moscow City Soviet.

Correction

On page one of Information Bulletin No. 44, April 13, 1944, it was erroneously stated that the presentation of Soviet decorations to members of the United States Army and Navy and Merchant Marine took place on March 11. The date of the presentation was April 11.

Material in this Bulletin may be quoted or reproduced

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The Grief of a Girl

By Ilya Ehrenburg

There is in the Russian word "devushka"—girl—something of moving purity and tenderness. A Russian word for a Russian girl . . . who has not murmured the beloved name, cut it in the bark of a tree, traced it with a finger across a frosted window-pane? Nadya, Anya, Masha, Zina, Klava . . . girl, lass, maiden . . . the word stands for our first love, a childish and exacting love, when every word has a nobler sound, as though it had never been uttered by anyone before; when the heart is brimming with avowals and chaste passion.

The Russian girl, intense and austere as our winter, the girl sung by Pushkin and Turgenev . . . Tanya, Asya, Lisa . . . friend of our schooldays, af-

fectionate and exacting. . . . Her letter lies in the young soldier's heart and in battle he feels against his cheek her quickened breathing.

Varya Nikolayeva lived in Genichesk. She was 16 when the Germans came. She wept when she saw people hanged. "Crying, you low slut," said a German. "We are doing this to keep order." Varya could not stop crying. "Do you want to hang, too?" the German demanded. "You don't? Then laugh!"

Varya was driven away to Cologne. They hung an identification tag around her neck and commanded, "Work!" A lame German was in charge of the camp. He used to punish those guilty of some fault.



While shots were still being fired on the outskirts of this Soviet village, families who had been hiding from the Germans in the woods were returning to their homes

He sent for the girl Nina Kablukova and gave the order, "Strip her. Thirty strokes with the lash," and counted them. She lay motionless. Suddenly she lifted her head and spat in the lame German's face. She was dragged away to the "torture hut"—there she was tortured and there she died.

Four girls were released from Cologne and returned to their homes. Marfusha Sokolova arrived in Novotroitskoye minus her right arm; Nina Mamontova reached Mikhailovskoye minus the fingers of her left hand; Shura Chernyaeva had lost her sight, and Varya Nikolayeva was suffering from an incurable illness.

Dante's *Inferno* had its circles. Let us go further—to the city of Heidelberg, where on February 14 students on vacation held a party. The parents of a certain student had a Russian girl, Zina Baranova, who was what they termed an "Eastern servant." The young Germans forced her to strip, then

diced for her. The letter I have before me now says, "Zina did not survive the disgrace. When I was let out of camp I went to see her, but her mistress drove me away. Jadwiga, a Polish girl, told me all about it. Zina hanged herself in that house, but what happened afterward and how they buried her I could not find out. . . ."

Russian soldier . . . hero of Stalingrad, Kursk, Korsun, the Dniester—you hear what the Germans did to Zina, a Russian girl? If you know what love is, if you have a heart, you will never forgive this thing. You will go to Heidelberg, too. You will find her violators. You won't deny yourself the honor of defending a girl's honor.

Thousands of our girls are languishing in Germany. They may be saved. They must be saved. These are our flowers, our birds, our love. They are awaiting you, soldier of Russia.

ENEMY LOSSES AND TROPHIES SEIZED BY TROOPS OF THE SECOND UKRAINIAN FRONT FROM MARCH 6 TO APRIL 15

On April 16, the Soviet Information Bureau published the following Communiqué on enemy losses and trophies seized by the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front in engagements from March 6 to April 15 of this year:

The troops of the Second Ukrainian Front under the command of Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev, as a result of offensive operations conducted from March 6 to April 15, 1944, inflicted the following losses in manpower and equipment upon the enemy:

Destroyed: 142 planes, 688 tanks and self-propelled guns, 1,474 guns of various calibers, 1,838 trench mortars, 3,660 machine guns, 356 armored cars and armored troop-carriers, 25,111 trucks, 248 tractors, 6,453 carts, 8,740 horses and 63 ammunition and engineering stores.

The enemy abandoned on the battlefield 118,400 bodies of officers and men.

During the same period the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front seized the following trophies: 27 planes, 731 tanks and self-propelled guns, 1,356 field guns of various calibers, 1,156 trench mortars, 2,090 machine guns, 27,093 rifles, 204 armored cars and armored troop-carriers, 15,096 trucks, 149 tractors, 198 wireless stations, 1,470 carts, 6,260 horses, 71 locomotives, 4,009 railway cars, 6,340,000 shells, 76 engineering equipment stores.

Twenty-seven thousand three hundred ninety-three German officers and men were taken prisoner.

Thus the German losses in the main items of war equipment and in manpower during the period of offensive operations of the Second Ukrainian Front total: 145,793 men taken prisoner or killed, 169 planes, 1,419 tanks and self-propelled guns, 2,830 guns of various calibers, 2,994 trench mortars, 5,750 machine guns, 560 armored cars and armored troop-carriers, and 40,207 trucks.

Germans Try to Remove Livestock in Plane

How certain the Germans were of their defenses in the Crimea is evident from the following, reported by an IZVESTIA correspondent:

"About two weeks ago our fliers shot down a huge four-engine German transport plane. A Soviet torpedo boat arrived at the scene and approached the plane, which remained afloat for some time, so that our officers were able to inspect the cargo. The plane was jammed with cows and pigs.

"The Germans were at that time mainly concerned with plundering the Crimea; now they are trying to save their own hides. The Black Sea Fleet Air Arm batters them relentlessly, and squadron after squadron of Stormoviks and bombers take off to hammer them. Black Sea fliers intercept and sink enemy ships at the piers and on the high seas, en route to Rumania."

Army General Nikolai F. Vatutin

In an article on the outstanding Soviet commander Nikolai Vatutin who died April 14, PRAVDA wrote:

Nikolai Fedorovich Vatutin was born into the family of a Russian peasant on December 16, 1901, in the Valuiki District, Kursk Region. The entire Vatutin family, which numbered 26, worked on one common farmstead. At the age of 10 Nikolai also began to work with them.

In April, 1920, he was drafted into the Red Army. He began his military career, which continued for 24 years, as a private in the Third Reserve Battalion in Kharkov. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of Junior Commander, and in 1922 was graduated from the Infantry School in Poltava with the rank of Platoon Commander.

In the period between 1920 and 1937 Vatutin was graduated successively from the Infantry School, the Kiev Higher Military School, the Frunze Military Academy, the Operational Department of the same Academy and the Academy of the General Staff of the Red Army.

Even before the great Patriotic War, Vatutin more than once participated in battles against the enemies of the Soviet country. As a private he took part in the campaign against Makhno's bands in the Lugansk and Starobelsk area, then was sent to suppress the Belenky bands in the Poltava Region. There in the Poltava Region he again repeatedly fought the remnants of the Makhno bands.

Vatutin always combined his service duties with active work in the ranks of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which he joined in February, 1921. In the days of the great Patriotic War his talent in the leadership of troops, his vast experience and deep knowledge, were revealed in all their brilliance. He was successively commander of a number of infantry units, Chief of Staff of a Division, Chief of the General Staff of the Kiev Special Military Area,

head of the Operational Department of the General Staff, and First Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff, and during wartime held the high posts of Chief of the General Staff of the Front and commander of troops on a number of fronts.

His name is associated with the heroic defense of Voronezh. As Commander of the Troops of the

Southwestern Front, he carried out, on November 19, 1942, the brilliant break-through of the German defense northwest of Stalingrad, and directed the vigorous offensive from Serafimovich—in the Kletskaya area to the south. On November 23, in the Kalach-Krivomuzginsk area, Vatutin's troops joined forces with the troops of the Stalingrad Front and closed the ring around the Germans' Stalingrad group.

In less than one month, on December 16, 1942, Vatutin's troops effected a break-through of the German defense in the Ossetrovka area, in the middle stream of the Don. Having launched an offensive from this area, by mid-February, 1943 the troops of the Southwestern Front fought their way to the approaches of the Dnieper in the Novo-Moskovsk area and liberated the Don valley, part of the Donets Basin and part of the Kharkov Region from the German invaders.



Army General Nikolai F. Vatutin

In July, 1943, as Commander of the Troops of the Voronezh Front, Vatutin beat back the furious onslaught of the Hitlerite hordes on Kursk from the south, and after repelling this general German offensive he led his own troops into an offensive and thus brilliantly carried out the plans of Supreme Commander-in-Chief Stalin. The liberation of the towns of Belgorod, Kharkov, Akhtyrka, Sumy, Lebedin, Bogodukhov, Lohvitsa, Piryatin, Lubny, Mirgorod, Romodan and Pereyaslav-Khmelnitsky, as well as the heroic operation of forcing the Dnieper south of Kiev, are closely associated with the name of Army General Vatutin.

On November 6, 1943, the troops of the First Ukrainian Front under Vatutin's command liberated the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, from the invaders. After the liberation of Kiev, Vatutin's name was repeatedly mentioned in the orders of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. On behalf of the motherland, Moscow saluted the troops of the First Ukrainian Front for the liberation of the towns of Korosten, Ovruch, Zhitomir, Novograd-Volynsky, Belaya-Tserkov, Berdichev and Rovno.

In appreciation of Army General Vatutin's services the Soviet Government on several occasions conferred

the highest decorations upon him: the Order of the Red Banner, the Order of Lenin, the Order of Suvorov, First Class, and the Order of Kutuzov, First Class.

A gallant disciple of Stalin, one of the most talented young leaders of troops, faithful son of the Bolshevik Party and one of the finest of Red Army Commanders, Army General Nikolai Vatutin was well known not only to the Soviet people but far beyond the borders of our country. All those who take to heart the cause of the destruction of hateful Hitlerite fascism know and love Vatutin. His memory will live forever in the hearts of all Soviet people.

Last Honors Paid General Vatutin at Kiev

For three days the people of Kiev filed past the coffin of Army General Nikolai F. Vatutin, in the House of Pioneers, paying their last tribute to one of Marshal Stalin's most glorious generals. Wreaths from Stalin and the Officers of the General Staff, from the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR and of the Ukrainian SSR, from the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine, from the Academy of Sciences, and numerous others, covered the base of the casket. A delegation of officers and men of the First Ukrainian Front stood a Guard of Honor before it.

At three o'clock on the afternoon of April 17 the coffin was closed and Krushchev, Korotchenko, Korneichuk and Colonel General Filip I. Golikov took their places in the final Guard of Honor. At four the Guard of Honor and high military and public officials carried the body to its last resting-place. After them came relatives and friends, Deputies of the Supreme Soviets of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR, Academicians, outstanding scientists and artists, and generals and officers of the Red Army. The procession moved along Kirov street toward Marinsky Park, the light spring breeze lifting the battle standards of the Guardsmen. General Vatutin's orders and decorations were carried on silken pillows by Heroes of the Soviet Union Kovpak, Fedorov and Saburov, commanders of guerrilla detachments.

The bearers turned in to Marinsky Park and the flags were lowered over the grave. The coffin was placed on a rostrum and lines of Guardsmen, tommy gunners and Cavaliers of Soviet Orders stood motionless in formation. About 125,000 people gathered at the grave, and at five o'clock addresses were made by Nikita Khrushchev, Alexander Korneichuk, Colonel General Golikov, the poet Nikolai Bazhan, and others.

Khrushchev reviewed the career of the beloved Soviet general, and concluded: "The death of General Vatutin is very painful for the entire Soviet people. It is especially painful for the workers, farmers and intellectuals of the Soviet Ukraine. The

best years of General Vatutin's life were associated with the Ukraine, where even before the war he worked in the units of the Special Kiev Military Area, and not long before the war held the responsible post of Chief of Staff of the Special Kiev Military Area, where he carried out important work in perfecting the combat training of Red Army units. . . .

"During his illness he deeply regretted that he could not take part in the victorious offensive of the Red Army. But he left us firmly convinced of the early and final defeat of Hitlerite Germany."

Colonel General Golikov said in part: "We are burying a Soviet man, a Bolshevik, soldier and general whose name is widely known to our whole people, to our friends abroad and to our Allies in the joint struggle against the German invaders, as a hero of the Patriotic War, a strategist of the Red Army and one of its foremost leaders."

Nikolai Bazhan linked the name of Vatutin with the immortal heroes of the Ukraine. "The ancient land of Kiev," he said, "has seen many deeds of valor; many gallant soldiers and commanders of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples have glorified it. Here stood the regiments of Princes Svyatoslav and Vladimir, here Daniil's soldiers battled, here clashed the swords of Bogdan Khmelnytsky's troops, and here passed the horsemen of Shchors and Bozhenko. Today the ancient soil of Kiev will receive the remains of one of our glorious military leaders, a brave Russian soldier who gave all his life, knowledge and talent for the freedom and honor of the Soviet motherland, for the freedom and honor of the Ukrainian people."

General Vatutin was buried directly above the Dnieper, on Mount Vekovaya, from which opens a wide view of the roads along which he led his army to storm Kiev. Twenty cannon salvos, the parting salute of the motherland to her faithful son, echoed over the river and to all the liberated Ukraine. The ancient Ukrainian land took to its bosom the glorious leader who gave his life for its liberation.

THE CRIMEA

On April 14 PRAVDA wrote editorially:

Another powerful fortress erected by the German and Rumanian invaders in the Soviet south has been demolished. The Red Army has forced the Sivash and broken through the Ishun and Akmonai positions which barred the entrance to the Crimea. Yesterday alone Feodosia, Evpatoria and Simferopol, capital of the Crimea, were wrested from the enemy.

The Red Army is racing at tremendous speed through the fertile land of the Soviet Crimea, sweeping the remnants of the contemptible German and Rumanian brigand bands into the sea. The hour is near when the Crimea will be completely and finally liberated. Three times yesterday our Capital, in the name of the country, saluted the gallant troops of General Tolbukhin and General Yerenenko. Three times the solemn strains of the national anthem, broadcast from Moscow in honor of the victors, resounded throughout the country.

The Soviet people are rejoicing today, for each of us, young and old, loves the Crimea as one of the most beautiful corners of the Soviet land. Year after year the shores and mountains of the Crimea, its health resorts and vineyards, served as sources of health, happiness and strength for millions of working people. Its fields and orchards generously yielded their bounty.

The Crimea has been sung by Pushkin, Tolstoy and Mickiewicz. And what glorious traditions of Russian military glory are associated with it! The shades of the great Nakhimov and Kornilov, of Seaman Koshka and Nurse Dasha, brood over Sevastopol's bastions. It will soon be a hundred years since "twelve times the moon waxed and waned, twelve times it rose in the heavens, yet still the siege continued and the battlefield ever widened within the blood-drenched walls."

Not only does the Crimea cherish the glory of the past; it multiplied this glory at the battle of Perekop during the Civil War, and inscribed in its history the deathless story of the 250 days' defense of Sevastopol in 1942. Sevastopol's defenders have won the love and gratitude of the Soviet people. "The self-sacrificing fight of the people of Sevastopol," wrote Comrade Stalin, "will serve as an example of heroism to the Red Army and the Soviet people."

Today the Crimea has again become the arena of great battles. The engagements which the Red Army is now fighting in the Crimean Peninsula are truly remarkable. They are splendid illustrations of Stalin's generalship. The crushing blows at the enemy's powerful fortified zone were struck in three directions: at the Perekop Isthmus, at the lakes and defiles on the southern shores of the Sivash, and at

the Kerch Peninsula. The Germans were convinced their fortifications were invulnerable. As far back as July 23, 1943, the *Berliner Boersenzeitung* stated: "The Crimean Peninsula has now been converted into an impregnable fortress. This rich and splendid corner is ready to repulse any enemy attack. The whole Crimea is surrounded by very powerful fortifications, which together with natural defenses today constitute a very strong defense line."

The Germans employed the period which has since elapsed to perfect their defenses. Every innovation of military technique and all their experience in building fortified zones were brought into play to strengthen the barriers surrounding the Crimea. But these seemingly impregnable fortifications were crushed to dust by the might of the Soviet artillery, air force and tanks, and our military technique generally. Perekop was penetrated to the full depth of the Ishun positions in 34 hours. Eyewitnesses report that from the Turkish Wall to Armyansk there is no patch of ground which is not covered with craters caused by our shells and bombs and which is not strewn with the wreckage of enemy armament.

The success of the break-through was largely due to long and careful preparation. Hitler's Crimean front was pierced and subsequent events developed with lightning speed. The blows of the Fourth Ukrainian Front and the separate Maritime Army were swift, and were struck and are being struck with gathering strength. Only two days separated the liberation of Simferopol and Evpatoria from the liberation of Dzhankoi, and the liberation of Feodosia from the liberation of Kerch. In each of these three directions our tanks and infantry fought their way forward some hundred kilometers in two days. The Germans wanted a blitzkrieg. They got it.

In a period of four days the Red Army seized possession of the Black Sea ports of Odessa, Evpatoria, and Feodosia, as well as Simferopol, chief strong-point in the enemy defense protecting the roads to the southern Crimean Coast. This victory almost completely restores to us the position on the Black Sea we lost temporarily. The Soviet flag again waves along the Black Sea Coast from the mouth of the Dniester to Batumi.

Hitler presented the Crimea to the Rumanians as a reward for taking part in the brigand campaign against the Soviet Union. But the Rumanian aggressors were not fated to preen themselves long as masters of the Black Sea "empire." The Rumanian and German bands have been ejected from Odessa and are being ejected from the Crimea. Meanwhile Soviet troops have already occupied several hundred inhabited places in Rumania itself, and are causing Hitler's puppets in Bucharest to shiver with trepidation.

The sudden and crushing blows of our troops who have forced their way into the heart of the Crimea and captured towns which the enemy to the very last regarded as a secure and tranquil section of his rear, have thrown the Hitlerite brigands and their Rumanian underlings into dismay. The roads to the south and southwest are jammed with motor vehicles and several "sacks" have been formed in which isolated and disorganized groups of Germans and Rumanians are being annihilated. Thanks to our swift maneuvering we have taken over 20,000 prisoners.

The Crimean operation, which is not yet over but is nearing consummation, is one more striking demonstration of the courage, fortitude and heroism of our troops, and the wonderful skill of Red Army officers and generals in brilliantly carrying out the

strategic plans of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal Stalin.

Hundreds of inhabited places in the Crimea have been cleared of the enemy. Soviet patriots in the greater part of the territory of the Peninsula can at last breathe freely, liberated from the German and Rumanian yoke. The shackles of slavery which fettered our Crimea are falling under the Red Army's blows. Day and night our gallant infantrymen, tankmen, artillerymen, mortarmen and airmen are moving forward.

Glory and nation-wide greetings to the advancing men, officers and generals of the Simferopol, Feodosia, Evpatoria, Kerch, Perekop and Sivash Regiments and Divisions of the Red Army!

STATEMENT OF ANDREI Y. VYSHINSKY

On April 16, at a press conference of Soviet and foreign journalists held in the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Andrei Y. Vyshinsky, Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs, made the following statement in connection with inquiries received with regard to the political situation in Italy:

At present Italy, where the Allies dispose of a large place d'armes for the struggle against Hitlerite Germany, is of great importance for the hastening of Germany's defeat. Seven months have already elapsed since the conclusion of the armistice with the Badoglio government—sufficient time for the unification of the democratic and anti-fascist forces of liberated Italy for the purpose of their active participation in the war effort of the Allies against the armed forces of Hitler and the fascist gang of Mussolini.

However, instead of such unification of the democratic and anti-fascist forces, the internal struggle continues in Italy, on the one hand between the Badoglio government, supported by certain groups of the population which express readiness to take part in the common struggle of the democratic countries against the German-fascist oppressors, and the permanent executive junta which has on its side a rather wide association of democratic elements displaying a desire for joint active operations with the Allies against Hitlerite Germany.

This state of affairs benefits only the enemies of the Allies. The elimination of this situation, the insuring of the unity of democratic and anti-fascist forces and the formation in Italy without delay of a government capable of uniting these forces in the interests of the common struggle of the Allies against Germany and for the purpose of hastening Germany's utter defeat, constitute an urgent necessity.

Proceeding from the above, the Soviet Government, lending its support to efforts for the earliest

elimination of the split in the camp of the political groups prepared to take part in the Allies' struggle for the hastening of the defeat of Germany, addressed the governments of the United States and Great Britain with a proposal jointly to consider measures for the unification of all democratic and anti-fascist forces in liberated Italy on the basis of a corresponding improvement of the composition of the Badoglio government through the inclusion in it of representatives of anti-fascist parties.

As is well known, the Moscow Conference, which laid a stable foundation for joint actions of the Allies with regard to Italy, directly pointed out that "it is necessary that the Italian government be rendered more democratic by means of the inclusion of representatives of those strata of the Italian people which have always opposed fascism." The exchange of opinions which took place of late between the USSR, the United States and Great Britain resulted in the submitting of this question for consideration of the Advisory Council on Affairs of Italy.

In a resolution passed a few days ago the Advisory Council stated that it would welcome a satisfactory solution of the problem of the government, and the immediate formation by Marshal Badoglio of a government on a wide basis, with representation of all parties. The Advisory Council also found it necessary that the new government should formally declare its preparedness to assume all undertakings of the Badoglio government with regard to the Allies, and that any settlement of a constitutional problem which may now be adopted be considered as stable until the moment when the Italian people is able freely to express its opinion.

This decision of the Advisory Council, now expressing the common viewpoint of the Allies, meets the above proposal made by the Soviet Government and doubtless constitutes a forward stride in the solution of the problem of the political situation in Italy.

SOVIET RIVERMEN AID RED ARMY

By Boris Bobylev

Soviet rivermen, who have begun their fourth navigation season of the war, are giving great assistance to the Red Army in its continuing offensive against the Germans.

River transport plays a vital role in the Soviet Union. A glance at the map will reveal a vast network of water channels. The People's Commissariat of River Fleets alone controls 100,000 kilometers of water lanes. The Volga, Kama, Dnieper, Dniester, Don, Northern Dvina, Pechora, Ural, Ob, Irtysh, Yenisei, Amur, Lena and Amu-Darya—these are the largest and deepest waterways, over which Soviet flotillas transport millions of tons of varied cargo each year.

The Soviet Government has always paid great attention to the development of river transport. Many large waterways were drastically changed and refitted for navigation during the years of peaceful construction. The Moscow and Volga Rivers were linked by a canal 128 kilometers in length. Last year the largest river boats and motorships were able to travel from the Caspian through the Volga to the heart of Moscow.

Another famous channel, the Stalin Canal, made it possible for river boats to travel from the Baltic Sea to the White Sea. Before the outbreak of war, another great canal was projected, from Stalingrad to Kalach, to link the Volga with the Don.

The construction of these canals was accompanied by the creation of enormous artificial inland seas. These seas—for example, the Moscow and Rybinsk, in the path of the Moscow-Volga Canal—now regulate the depth of Russia's most important water channel, the Volga.

Owing to the reconstruction of its water channels the Soviet Union was able during the war to increase river shipping with a smaller number of vessels. An important role was played by the flotillas during the defense of Stalingrad. When the heroic city was deprived of its railway communications, the rivermen assumed the task of supplying its defenders with everything necessary for the evacuation of the population and the bringing up of reserves for the Red Army. They fulfilled this difficult task with honor, laboring selflessly at the precarious river crossings of Stalingrad.

The transport men on Lake Ladoga did not miss a single day of the navigation season, steadily carrying cargoes and Red Army reserves to beleaguered Leningrad. The Kuban River flotilla participated in the landing operations of the Red Army and Navy on the Kerch Peninsula. Soviet rivermen were also

a decisive factor in the defense of such strategic river points as Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Kherson, Rostov and others.

When the Red Army began to clear the Soviet land of the invaders, a new detail was added to the system controlled by the People's Commissariat of River Fleets—the special military restoration units. These units concerned themselves with the salvaging and repairing of sunken ships and the restoration of harbor facilities, and in the beginning also handled transportation on the newly-liberated arteries.

In 1943, shipping resumed its normal course on the Don and Volga. Navigation of the Dnieper will be restored this season. The transport workers of many rivers are aiding in the work of restoring the port of Stalingrad, destroyed by the Nazis. Workers, harbor machinery and building materials have been sent to the Volga city.

The ports now being restored on the Dnieper include Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporozhye. As soon as the Red Army drives the invaders from a basin, the rivermen return to their posts and begin work in "battle shifts," as they call them.

During the 1944 navigation season the river flotillas of the USSR will carry millions of tons for the front and for the country at large. Caravans of oil, salt and fish are already plying the Volga; others with wheat, coal and fuel are traveling the Don waterway. River boats handle a large part of the cargoes which reach the Soviet Union from the Allied countries.

Thousands of steamers, motorships, barges and other vessels will soon appear on the rivers of the North, in Siberia and in the Far East. Every ton of cargo will represent a blow at the retreating troops of Germany and her vassals.

Conference on Polar Agriculture

Representatives of Far Northern agricultural institutes and research stations have been attending a conference called by the Soviet Institute of Polar Agriculture and Stockbreeding. The sessions lasted five days, and summed up their wartime work.

Many new plants have been successfully cultivated in the Far North. Sugar beet, flax, tobacco and grain plants have shown that they can thrive there. Potato-growing has developed considerably since the outbreak of war. State farms in the Igarka area produced three and one-half tons per acre last year.

Theological Education in the Soviet Union

By Archbishop Grigori, of Saratov and Stalingrad

In accordance with a project approved by the Holy Synod, it is proposed to found an Orthodox Theological Institute as a school of higher theological education in Moscow, and theological pastorate courses as theological schools of a secondary type in the bishopric districts. The period of tuition in the theological-pastorate courses will be two years, and in the Orthodox Theological Institute three years.

Whereas previously secondary and higher theological education required six or seven years (two years in an ecclesiastical seminary and four years in an ecclesiastical academy), the reduction in the period of education (two years in the secondary school and three years in the higher school) will be compensated by the mental maturity of the pupils (entrants are not to be below 18 years of age), by their personal interest in their studies and by concentration on theological subjects—in the former ecclesiastical educational establishments non-theological sciences were also studied.

The curriculum in the theological-pastorate courses is arranged in conformity with the programs of the former ecclesiastical seminaries; and in the Orthodox Theological Institute in conformity with the programs of the former ecclesiastical academies, with the addition of several new subjects (hagiology, history of Russian religious thought, history of asceticism, history of religion). The whole character of the tuition is given a more practical turn.

In the theological institute will be studied the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, patristics; history of the Christian Church, ecumenical and Russian, with hagiology and the history of Russian religious thought; introduction in the sphere of theological sciences; theology: dogmatic, moral (including asceticism), comparative and pastorate; the history of religion with Christian apologetics; the history and analysis of Russian sectarianism and of the Raskol (schism); the canonical code and the Constitution of the USSR; liturgy, including the history of Christian art; church preaching and teaching of the truths of religious beliefs; Christian hymnology; reading of theological books in the ancient Slavonic-Church language and church singing; ancient languages: reading of the Greek text of the Holy Scriptures and of the works of the Holy Fathers of the Church in the Greek and Latin languages; the Hebrew language: reading of selected passages from the Bible; reading of foreign theological, apologetic and polemical literature (Catholic, Protestant and Anglican).

In the theological-pastorate courses the following will be taught: biblical history, reading and explanation of selected passages from the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; the Orthodox catechism and Orthodox faith and moral admonition; history of the Christian Church—general and Russian; Christian apologetics, study of sects and of the Raskol (schism); practical guidance for pastors of the church; Constitution of the USSR; liturgy, church preaching; ancient Slavonic Church language; conducted Church singing.

Tuition in the Theological Institute and the theological-pastorate course will be free of charge. Stipends are being instituted for the maintenance of needy students, and boarding schools are to be opened for those coming from other towns.

Inasmuch as students of the Orthodox Theological Institute and of the theological-pastorate courses will consist of persons entering them of their own free will and inclination, persons striving to serve the Holy Church, therefore their religious and moral education must, strictly speaking, be a matter of self-education, to be accomplished with all possible assistance from the teaching staff, mainly, of course, by self-sacrificing work for the development of their faculties and inculcation of a Christian and pastoral frame of mind.

It follows therefrom that the life of the students in the boarding schools must correspond with the tasks of the theological school: common morning and evening prayer, reading of the Word of God, attending divine service on Sundays and on holidays, common preparation for communion during fasts and irreproachable moral conduct must be obligatory.

Yugoslav Volunteers in USSR Celebrate Easter

On April 16 the Yugoslav Volunteer Unit in the USSR celebrated Easter. Orthodox Priest Dmitri Tsvetkov read the Easter Service, assisted by a choir from Moscow. A Sunday Mass for Catholic soldiers was celebrated by Father Ante Wais. Moslems of the Yugoslav Unit were addressed by Priest Achmet Chilimidjich.

The three religious leaders urged the soldiers to give all their strength for the liberation of Yugoslavia from the German enslavers.

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The Battle for the Crimea

By War Correspondent Nikitin

A holocaust—that is the only word to describe the great slaughter which Soviet troops of the Fourth Ukrainian Front are inflicting upon the Germans and Rumanians in the Crimea.

Captain Herman Gross told a Soviet officer how he lost his battalion and fled by automobile through the Crimean steppe from Perekop to Simferopol. He covered the distance in two days, but in Simferopol his car broke down. Gross tried to get a place in a motor truck crammed with fugitives like himself. There were officers of eight different regiments on it. As a senior officer, he ordered them to help him onto the truck. They rudely refused. Gross drew his revolver, determined to inspire respect and obedience. Before he could take aim he was felled by a heavy blow from a fist. The truck vanished in a cloud of dust. Gross remained on the road, where he was picked up an hour later.

Since the capture of Simferopol, the Red Army's advance, conducted simultaneously from several directions, has gathered even greater speed. Numerous sharp wedges have been driven into the German defenses, all directed toward Sevastopol. Soviet mobile units are speeding along the coast. Only a comparatively small part of the Crimean Coast remains in German hands, and that is diminishing every hour.

At headquarters the Chief of Staff of one of the formations of the Fourth Ukrainian Front could hardly keep up with the flow of reports of newly-liberated towns and villages. Dead tired, but excited and tense, he marked on the map another town just captured and exclaimed: "That's the 107th today. It's only 6:30 now. We'll reach 200 before the day is out, I swear!"

The Germans and Rumanians are fleeing across



Soviet tanks move up to the crest of a hill in preparation for attack

the Crimean steppe, driven by mortal terror and possessed by an instinctive urge to escape and survive. But it is like trying to escape the inexorable hand of fate. Our tanks are hunting down the remnants of German divisions which only a few days ago were considered formidable, but which have been reduced to motley herds. The tanks crush the Germans and Rumanians beneath their treads, while our guns and machine guns take a heavy toll of the mobs of Hitlerites reeling to the south.

Once so haughty and arrogant, confident they could hold the Crimea as long as the Fuehrer ordered, the Germans are now whining and lamenting. "I've been fighting in Russia for nearly three years," said Oberleutnant Hans Ritter when interrogated. "I believed in the blitzkrieg and was sure it would bring us victory. But the blitzkrieg didn't come off. Now I have witnessed a blitz defeat of a whole army in the Crimea this April."

Soviet troops are indefatigable. One tank regiment advanced 80 kilometers in two days, fighting all the way, and in that period liberated 11 inhabited places and took 3,000 Germans prisoner. So much booty is falling into our hands it will take some time to count it. On the road between Simferopol and ancient Bakhchisarai I saw a heavy German tank in perfect condition. It had been abandoned by its crew a few hours earlier, and the word "counted" was already chalked on its side. The men of the salvage squad had now gone ahead, and the tank was waiting for a tractor to tow it back to the rear.

One has only to look around to see that the days of the Germans in the Crimea are numbered. On a one-kilometer stretch of road south of Simferopol, I counted 430 German and Rumanian dead. This was not a scene of heavy fighting; I chose a spot at random. Yesterday and today I have seen many similar spots.

Day after day and hour after hour Soviet troops are pursuing the Germans and scattering their units, or rather their wretched remnants, over the Crimean steppe. The avalanche of our advance is sweeping toward the southern corner of the Peninsula. Ahead lies legend-wreathed Sevastopol.

* * *

A PRAVDA front-line correspondent reports further:

On the eighth day of the fighting in the Crimea our troops entered the mountains—a land of narrow gorges and cliffs, narrow mountain paths and few and steep winding roads running across the mountain bridges to the sea. The conditions are undoubtedly difficult for an offensive.

Mountain warfare is primarily a struggle for roads. That is why the rapid capture of Simferopol was a great gain in the Crimean campaign of Gen-

eral Tolbukhin's troops. We carried the town before the Germans had time to entrench themselves north of it. And Simferopol is not only the capital of the Crimea, but also a converging point for all the main roads running toward and across the mountains to the ports. And since this has fallen into our hands, we were able to establish with precision how late the Germans were in the execution of their plan.

Our tanks outpaced their schedule by two days, and then the Germans themselves were two days behind in the execution of their own plan.

In the mountains the struggle grew stiffer. Not only the main roads, but even the individual paths, became objects of struggle. The Germans mine roads heavily and erect booms on them. On the mountain passes they leave small groups of artillery which shell our attacking columns. They conceal mortars and tommy gunners in the woods. Their aviation tries to attack our tanks and supply trucks suddenly, to destroy bridges, and to machine-gun our infantry and supply trains. In the mountains, therefore, mobile groups of our sappers proceed ahead of the tanks, while light screens move along the narrow paths on both sides of the main roads.

Having covered nearly 200 kilometers, our artillery now holds the enemy's Sevastopol defenses under its fire. The infantry has fought for the capture of the Belbek River line, which is the first barrier encompassing Sevastopol.

In another sector our troops are dislodging the enemy from exits leading from the mountains into the valley extending to Kherson's cape and to Sevastopol. Fighting is now in progress at the approaches to Sevastopol, on the lines which our heroic Black Sea sailors defended in 1942.

The Germans have been driven into the corner of the Crimea. Everywhere from the mountain positions our guns are hammering the enemy, while our aviation does not cease its concentrated attacks. Our troops continue offensive engagements, dislodging the enemy from the heavily-fortified strongpoints of his defense.

Order of Lenin Awarded Heads of Chemical Industry

For successful execution of Government assignments for increase in the output of chemicals for war industries, orders and medals were recently awarded to a large number of workers in the chemical industry. Among those receiving the Order of Lenin were Mikhail Pervukhin, People's Commissar of the Chemical Industry, and Fedor Golovanov, Deputy People's Commissar of the Chemical Industry.

SOVIET RAILWAYS UNDER WAR CONDITIONS

By Academician V. N. Obratzov

One of the reasons for Russia's disastrous defeat in the First World War was, as we know, the inefficiency of her railway system. Tsarist Russia was economically backward generally and her railway organization was on such a low level that soon after the outbreak of war it became a grave handicap to military operations.

In 1915 the chaos in transport was making itself

of being moved. Hundreds of freight yards had been closed altogether. The railway system of Tsarist Russia failed miserably when put to the test of war.

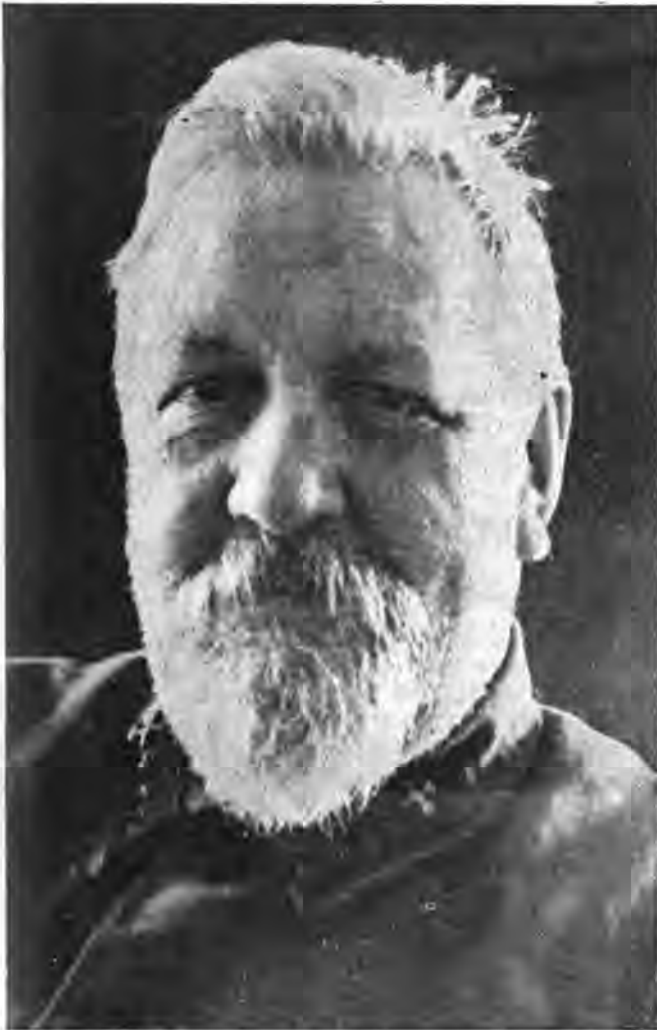
Today we have an entirely different picture. The scale and scope of the present war are of course beyond all comparison with those of the First World War. The volume of freight for military, industrial and civilian needs has grown enormously. Yet Soviet railways are coping successfully with the increased demands.

The Nazis, who in general made the fatal mistake of underestimating the economic strength of the Soviet Union, confidently believed that our railways would break down under the strain of war. This, in fact, was one of the major cards in their strategic gamble. But the Germans were to learn how groundless were their expectations. Soviet railways were put to a severe test, but they stood it admirably. Both in its retreat and in its advance the Red Army knew that it had an efficient and reliable railway system to back it up.

Think of the magnitude of the task faced by our railways, especially in the early period of the war. Huge masses of troops with their armament, ammunition and the multifarious paraphernalia of modern war had to be rushed to meet Hitler's sudden and perfidious onslaught. Simultaneously the country must be normally supplied. To add to this, hundreds of industrial plants, millions of refugees and vast stocks of food, raw materials and similar goods had to be removed from the war zones into the interior. It was a prodigious task.

Even as the factories transplanted to the east began to function again, as the industries of the country swung into the war effort and as one new munitions plant after another sprang up out of reach of the Luftwaffe, the railways had to rush war freight thousands of miles from the centers of production to the battle zones.

Hitler might not have made his disastrous blunder if he had been better informed of advances in railway operation made in Russia since Tsarist days. By 1937, as a result of Stalin's far-sighted plan of railway reconstruction, the roads were carrying four times as much freight as in pre-revolutionary days. Powerful locomotives and up-to-date cars fitted with automatic brakes and couplings were introduced. Modern machinery was installed in the freight yards and distributing depots. Over 3,000 kilometers of new lines were laid. Railway development kept pace with the industrial progress of the Soviet Union, and with a view to the demands of national defense, and for scale and speed had no equal in any other country.



Professor V. N. Obratzov, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and head of the Scientific Research Institute of Railway Transport

felt all over the country, and by 1916 the breakdown was catastrophic. It will be enough to say that in the early part of that year 150,000 cars of freight (50,000 of them urgently needed) were jamming the railway yards of the country without any prospect

What is perhaps even more astonishing is that this development has not ceased even in wartime. Several new railways have been built since the outbreak of war. The new Akmolinsk-Kartali, Kotlas-Vorkuta, Saratov-Stalingrad and Kizlyar-Astrakhan lines, to mention only the more important, have made it possible to effect large economies in coal, to keep industries better supplied with oil and fuel and to expedite the delivery of war goods to the front. Incidentally, these new roads facilitated the defense of Stalingrad.

But the picture would be incomplete without mention of the moral factor. Our railwaymen, like the workers of our country in general, are inspired by supreme patriotism. It is this which explains the dimensions assumed by the Stakhanov movement on the railroads, which has made it possible to considerably increase the freight-carrying capacity of the roads and to speed up traffic. Dispatchers and locomotive engineers are cooperating in increasing the length of freight trains, in lengthening the runs between stops and in making up trains which do not require shifting en route, the result of which is a 50 per cent increase in traffic without the necessity of increasing the rolling stock on tracks or sidings.

Loading and unloading of trains in front areas has demanded great coolness and courage. During air raids trains had to be broken up and fires in cars—often loaded with explosives—extinguished. Many

times our Red Army men have been moved to admiration by the heroism of our railwaymen. The list of locomotive engineers, shunters, switchmen, linesmen, station masters and other railroad personnel, men and women alike, who have displayed exemplary courage and coolness under enemy fire is endless.

Many plants which produced railway equipment were switched to the production of munitions. The railroads also coped with this handicap and began themselves to produce locomotive and car parts and signaling apparatus. They built their own forgeshops and foundries and discovered substitutes for scarce materials. In this they received valuable assistance from scientists and inventors.

Added to this was the problem of training tens of thousands of new workers, for the most part women, to replace skilled and experienced railwaymen called up for the armed forces, a task which has also been successfully accomplished.

A high tribute was paid to Soviet railroad workers by Marshal Stalin in his message to the people on November 6, 1943, when he said, "The transport system is playing a decisive part in the timely delivery to the front of arms, ammunition, food, clothing, etc. Credit for the fact that we have been able to supply the front with all it needs in spite of wartime difficulties and fuel shortage is due primarily to our transport workers."

* * *

PLANS FOR RESTORATION OF SOVIET TRANSPORT

The following is a summary of an article by Professor Obraztsov which appeared recently in TRANSACTIONS OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR. (Technical Sciences No. 8; 1943).

Before the war the western districts of the Soviet Union and the Donets valley had the densest railway network in the USSR, including a large number of double-track lines. Since these lines have been completely destroyed, we shall at first have to content ourselves with working on single-track lines.

Intensified methods of work developed in our country during the war will enable us to achieve from 10 to 15 million kilometer-tons per kilometer per year even on single-track railways. Branch lines will have to be neglected for the time being, while lateral main lines (parallel to the front) will have to be extended and new lines built to permit the rapid transport of troops up and down the front.

In view of the development of motor transport in warfare, provision will have to be made for crossings over cuttings and across embankments capable of carrying the heaviest tanks and gun tractors. These must be not more than a mile and a quarter apart.

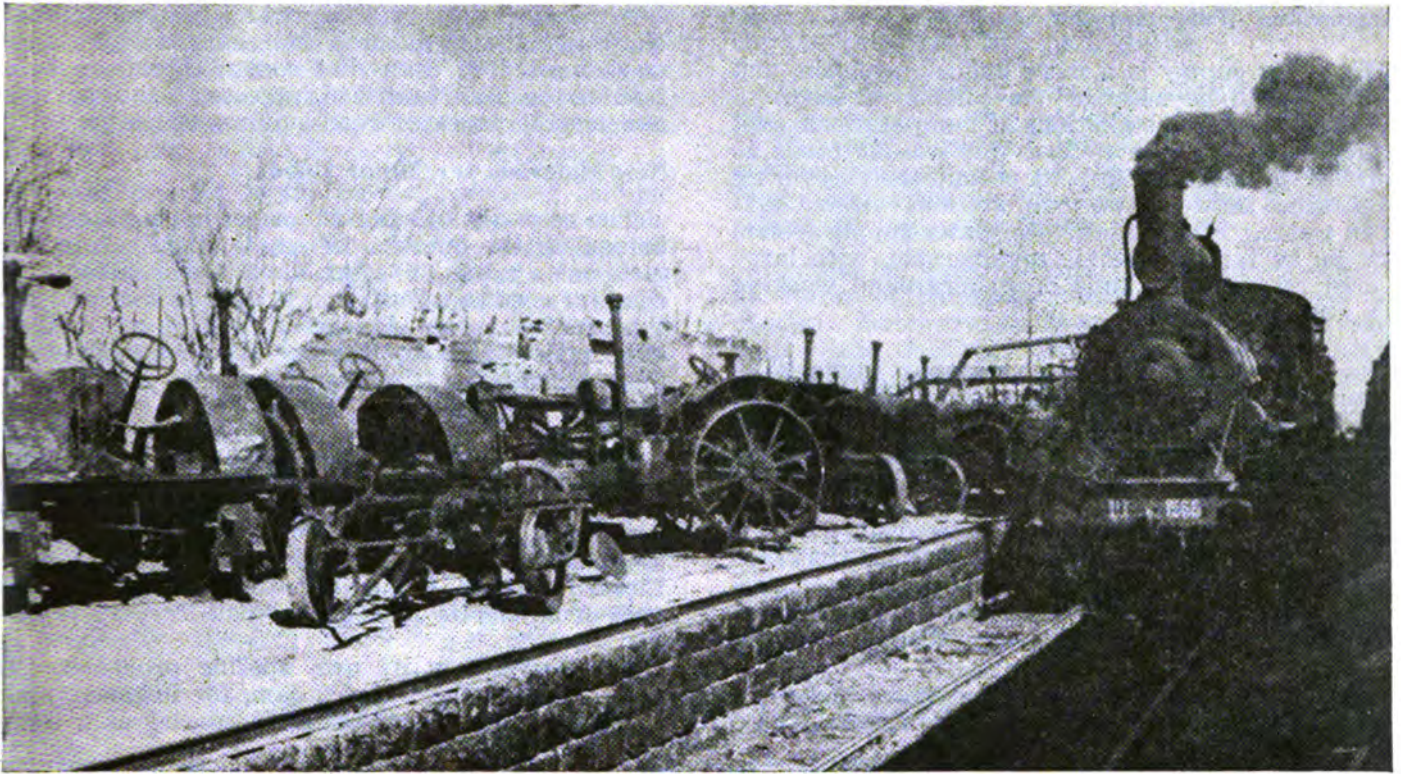
Laminated Rails

Light rails, local ballast—mostly sand—and untreated sleepers cut from local trees must be used for temporary work. If laminated rails weighing 123 tons to the kilometer are used, a considerable amount of metal can be saved by smelting down or re-rolling existing rails in the areas under reconstruction. This will more than make good the losses.

At the same time the gigantic but absolutely essential task of changing sand ballast for granite chips or rubble must be commenced. The Academy of Sciences Railway Research Institute must prepare maps showing the places where the ballast (granite, rubble or slag) is obtainable, and the places where it is needed. On the basis of this, efforts must be made to employ empty trucks and box-cars to carry the ballast on their return journeys. This work should be completed in about five years after the reconstruction of the line.

Timber Replaces Metal

Naturally, we shall make great use of wooden bridges in reconstructing our railways. This is not a purely temporary measure. We know how to make



A train from far-off Novosibirsk brings a shipment of agricultural machinery sent by collective farmers of the Novosibirsk Region to the Vyazma collective farms, devastated by the Germans. The invaders also burned the Vyazma railway station

wood extremely durable and impervious to fire—an improvement over metal, which bends under the influence of heat. The use of lignostone (pressed wood used in aircraft construction) is particularly interesting. Its tensile strength is equal to that of iron, and its weight is only one-fifth the weight of iron.

The building of permanent bridges and other railway installations will require the establishment of a chain of cement works so that materials will not have to be transported more than 200 to 300 kilometers. Many of the longer bridges over rivers could be replaced by tunnels, which are more reliable from the defense angle.

The problem of standardizing Russian rolling stock is one that must be tackled seriously. Our gauge and the height of our rolling stock exceed foreign standards, which makes for great inconvenience in transferring our rolling stock to foreign railways. It also affects the speeds attainable on our railways. Our rolling stock must be rebuilt so that it approaches foreign standards.

The decision as to the type of locomotive will affect the type of turntable and round-house. Intensified work on our railways, which already convey about treble the traffic carried by American railways, de-

mands more and more powerful locomotives, while modern tendencies in transport require high-speed engines for both passenger and freight work.

At the same time the use of light rails forbids the employment of heavy weights per axle. One way out of this difficulty is the use of doubled engines with the formula $2-4 \times 4-2$, giving a weight of 20 tons per axle and a total weight of 160 tons. This is 60 per cent more than the weight of the heaviest Soviet engine, the FD type, and has a pulling power of 36,500 kilograms as compared with the FD's 22,800 kilograms. Being four-axled locomotives, they also take sharp curves more easily than the five-axled FD. On the steepest grade, with the maximum load, these engines will make 25 kilometers per hour, and with lighter loads can reach a maximum of 100 k.p.h. A locomotive of this type will generate 4,000 horsepower.

The experience of the war has taught us that stations must not be rebuilt on the old lines. For small stations on single-track lines the American type is best. The stations should be long enough to accommodate two full-length trains. Larger stations, especially junctions, must have deviations permitting the through passage of traffic and loops to turn a locomotive in either direction.

Safeguarding Water Supply

The water supply is a more difficult problem, and at first it will be necessary to confine ourselves to restoring existing installations at main stations, supplying the trains with cisterns (or wooden tanks as proposed by Rozhnovsky) to permit their covering the distance between two main stations without taking in water. Furthermore, the water supply system must be as far as possible invulnerable, with large covered reservoirs in hills or underground working on a gravity system.

The development of motor transport compels us to build the new goods stations on a different plan from the old. Arrangements must be made for the trains to run between the warehouses, and more use must be made of container-bodies that can be loaded straight on to truck chassis. During the rebuilding of goods stations they should be linked up with the streetcar system of the town concerned, so that trolleys can carry goods direct from the railway to warehouses in the town, so doing away with the frequent handling of goods.

As the Red Army advances and more and more towns are rebuilt there will be an ever-increasing need

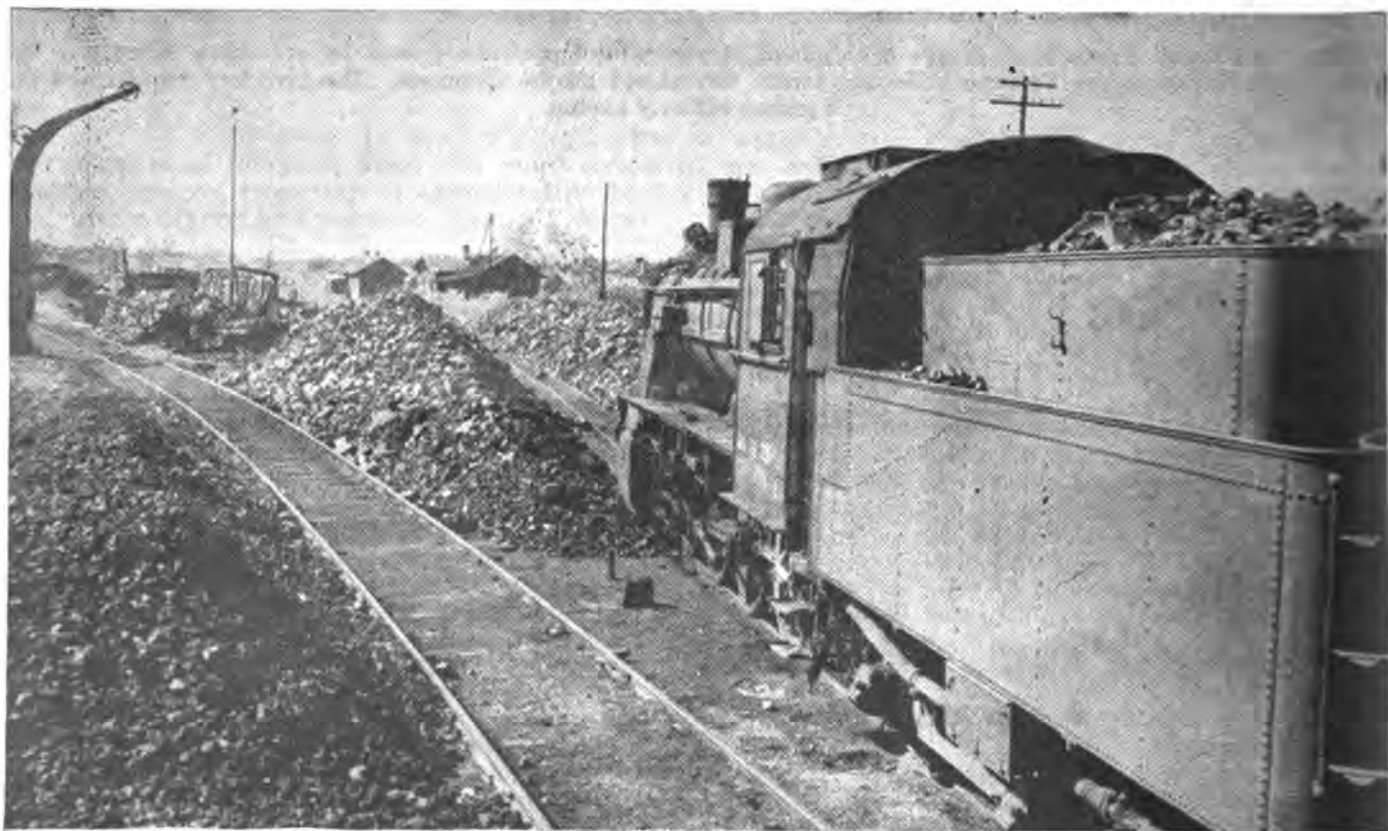
for improved motor transport and good motor roads. Naturally the first roads will have to be cobbled, macadamized or even dirt roads; therefore it is a task of the near future to increase to the maximum our central parks of road-building machinery.

New Materials for Motor Roads

The necessity to build motor roads on a large scale brings up the question of employing local building materials, many of which have never before been used for road construction. It must be borne in mind that for the next 15 years it will be necessary to build no less than 62,500 miles of motor roads yearly, of which at least 12,500 miles will be arterial highways.

The automobile industry will have to consider all the new methods of employing plastics, laminated metal, artificial rubber and so on, which have been developed during recent years in the USSR and abroad, and also must tackle the problem of manufacturing cheap accumulators in order to electrify part of our motor transport.

Each river has its own specific problems. The destruction of the Dnieper dam, for instance, makes the use of light draft vessels necessary as a tempo-



Booty for the Red Army—a German locomotive. In their hasty retreat the Nazis abandon complete trains and precious coal

rary measure on this river. Scientists and engineers have been working on this problem, and many interesting proposals have been made. Professor Mikhailov, for example, proposed the construction of a number of light vessels on the Volga and other rivers, which were later to be transferred to the Dnieper.

Another problem is the mechanization of loading and unloading processes. We must begin with simple installations, while aiming at complete mechanization in the future. Prewar plans provided for a complete reconstruction of our entire river network, and the building of numerous canals to make direct water transport possible between the main cities. The huge electric power schemes—such as the Kuibyshev dam on the Volga—were all part of this plan. Postwar reconstruction demands an extension of the scheme and its application to other rivers.

The development of air transport during the war and the large number of transport planes that will be released at the end of the war lead one to suppose that this form of transport, both between distant parts of our own country and with foreign countries, will be greatly extended. There will be no great dif-

ficulty about extending air transport, for no large capital investment will be required.

One of the most important problems facing transport engineers is what are known in the Soviet Union as transport junctions—where roads, railways and waterways meet. If we plan these junctions correctly during the reconstruction period, it will mean a great saving in the future.

It must be borne in mind that the development of all forms of transport shows certain general tendencies: motor transport and aircraft, which began with liquid fuel and internal combustion engines, are seeking, and to some extent finding, methods of employing hard fuel, steam and electricity. Increased speeds of road transport have stepped up railway speeds, with the railways employing electric traction and Diesel traction in addition to coal-burning locomotives.

Only by flexibly uniting all forms of transport, and by providing cheap and rapid transfer of goods from one point to another, shall we satisfy the demands imposed by the high technical level of our country.

THE RAZIN SISTERS OF KRIVOI ROG

Anna Raizin, a 19-year-old guerrilla, played an important part at a critical stage of the battle for Krivoi Rog. The Germans were shelling across the Ingulets River, hampering the Red Army advance. By a sudden blow from the rear, Anna's guerrilla group destroyed three enemy firing positions, but the shelling continued from well-camouflaged guns.

Then Anna Raizin made her way to the Red Army positions, crawling 600 yards under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire. Somehow she reached her destination, told the Red Army men the positions of the German guns, and brought a large group of regular troops to the guerrilla positions. With this reinforcement the guerrillas captured the railway bridge across the Ingulets, thus securing a safe crossing for the Red Army.

Anna's 14-year-old sister, Klavdia, had been imprisoned with her in Krivoi Rog, but on the eve of their execution the girls escaped with other young people. For several days they hid in demolished mines, while Gestapo men with dogs searched the district. Then they succeeded in joining the guerrillas, and from that time up to the arrival of the Red Army the Raizin sisters worked in the detachment as scouts.

Day after day Klavdia posted up in the town the Soviet communiques, which the guerrillas received by radio. She watched the movements of German troops and reported them to the guerrillas. Twice she was caught by the Gestapo, but both times she escaped.

Anna Raizin kept in touch with the miners of Krivoi Rog, calling them to resistance by every means, and maintained communications between guerrilla groups operating throughout the district. On one occasion, hearing that a German supply plane had just landed at the airdrome, Anna and two other girls killed the guard, unloaded the medical supplies from the plane, set fire to the machine and took the medicine to guerrilla headquarters.

Ex-Guerrillas Staff Front-Line Station

A certain railway station in the Soviet front-line zone is staffed entirely by former guerrillas. They are all local people who have inherited the trade of railwaymen from their fathers. When the Germans reached the station, its staff took to the forests. Soon German trains were blowing up on the line. In their fear the fascists fortified every station, every track-guard's cabin, and set up alarm devices made of empty tins and thin wire. But the guerrillas learned to beat all these tricks with skill and ingenuity.

In the spring of 1943, when German punitive detachments were flung against them, the guerrilla railwaymen, with their families, broke through the enemy ring and reached unoccupied territory.

Now the heroes have returned to their own station and are energetically restoring the town which the Germans burned down.

SOVIET YAKUTIA

Yakutia is an Autonomous Soviet Republic in Northern Siberia, extending over 1.9 million square miles—nearly equal to the size of two-thirds of Europe excluding the USSR. The population numbers only 400,000—peoples of Mongolian origin such as Yakuts, Evenkis and Chukchis. There are very few Russians. The climate is extremely severe; the winter temperature drops sometimes to 70 degrees below zero Centigrade. There is a brief hot summer, followed by a long winter. There are no railways.

Before the revolution Yakutia was used by the Tsarist government as a settlement for political prisoners deported from European Russia. The population was entirely illiterate. The Yakuts obtained the script of their language only under Soviet rule and since then have rapidly developed their own literature. A quarter of the Soviet gold output is produced in Yakutia.

* * *

Lyuba Kornilova has a Russian name, but she is of Yakut nationality. She can remember the days when her people did not enjoy the same civic rights as Russians. She was born in 1907. Her father was baptized, took a Russian name, and so obtained Russian civic rights.

"But though he gave me a Russian name," she explains, "everybody knows me by my own Yakut name, 'Chari.' I am a real Yakut."

The northeastern part of Yakutia is covered with virgin forest, mountains and immense rivers. The Lena, with all its tributaries, is 16 miles wide at Yakutsk, the capital. Adjoining the Arctic Ocean is the tundra, gripped in eternal frost.

To reach Moscow Lyuba Kornilova—"Chari"—has to travel four days by plane, and then two days by train. But she is far from being old-fashioned or provincial. She was graduated from the Herzen Institute for teachers in Leningrad, and is now working in the Yakutsk Institute.

Nursery schools are her specialty. Yakutia has many of them. In the fishing and hunting districts they stay open day and night during the season, to accommodate children whose parents have to go out to sea or into the forest.

"Our kindergartens rival those of Moscow," says Chari proudly. "The arrangements and general training methods are the same. Instructions and textbooks, charts and other printed matter for children are translated into the Yakut and Evenki lan-

guages: our teachers are as much at home in these tongues as in Russian. Children's stories, songs and verses are published in our languages. We can read Alexei Tolstoy and Samuel Marshak in translation.

The Yakuts have taken the kindergartens to their hearts. They see to it that there is no shortage of fuel or ice for drinking water. About the end of October or the beginning of November, when the river ice is about two feet thick, enough ice is prepared to last the whole year. The Yakuts dare not miss the proper moment, because the ice thickens so rapidly, often to a depth of about seven feet. In Yakutia, all food is delivered frozen. Milk is sold in round slabs.

"Our children never catch cold, never have coughs or sore throats," said Chari. "Rationing is different, of course—we give the children much more meat and fats in the North.

"In educating them, we have to remember that many will be trappers or hunters when they grow up. They must develop their sight and hearing, and we must help them by means of lessons and games.

"In the North children become self-reliant at an early age. A four or five-year-old Yakut boy is a good skier, and at six he can be trusted to ski several miles on an errand. But that is perhaps the only difference. Otherwise little Yakuts and Evenkis are brought up like any other children in the Soviet Union."

100th Year of Pasteur Children's Hospital

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Pasteur Children's Hospital in Leningrad was recently celebrated. During the blockade of the city, the staff achieved great success in the treatment of children gravely wounded by the artillery shelling and bombardment. In this period a number of works on problems of child surgery, urology, etc., were completed.

The hospital was partially damaged during the siege, but through the resourcefulness and devotion of the personnel not a single small patient suffered. Measures carried out by the staff contributed to the preservation of the health of children during the trying months.

The anniversary was also the occasion for honoring Dr. Bakkel and stretcher-bearer Petrova, who have worked at the Pasteur Children's Hospital for half a century.

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After the Battle of Tarnopol

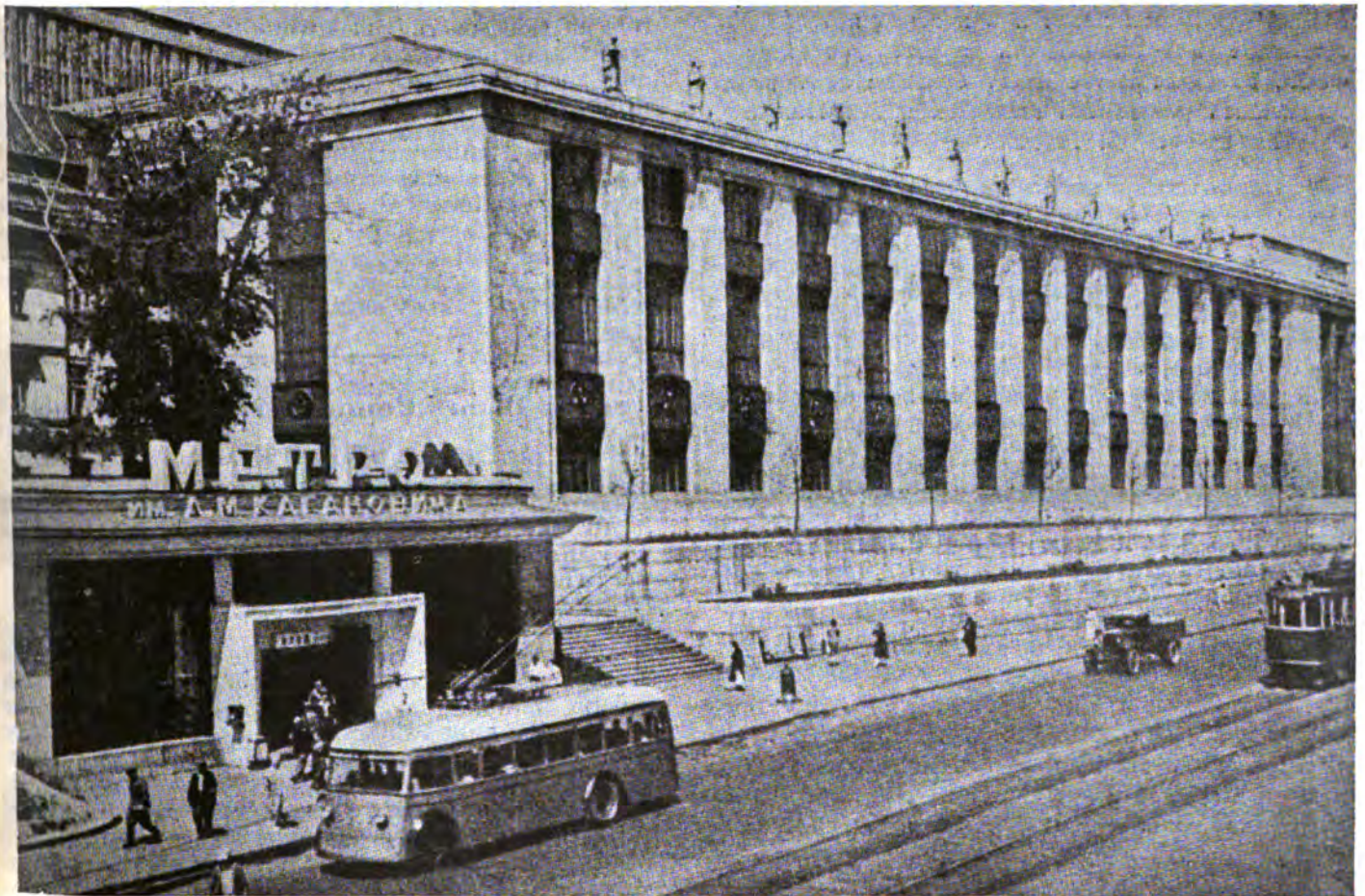
By Konstantin Simonov

Konstantin Simonov, noted Soviet dramatist, poet, playwright and film writer, has served as a war correspondent on many sectors of the front. He is author of the play THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE; the favorite poem of Red Army men, "Wait for Me," and hundreds of short stories and sketches.

It is only now, as you pick your way through the smoking ruins of the streets of Tarnopol, filled with

rubble and wreckage, that you begin to realize what superhuman effort must have been required of the attackers in the last street fighting. The center of the town—the citadel of the German defense—suffered heavily. Walls two meters thick are riddled like sieves, with roofs blown off and floors and ceilings caved in.

Tarnopol is littered with enemy corpses. They lie



The new building of the Lenin All-Union Library, largest in the USSR, is situated in the heart of Moscow.
The Library contains over 9,500,000 volumes

in the middle of the streets, against the walls of houses and in the houses themselves, under the shattered walls. Some were struck down by shell splinters, others shot point-blank by Soviet tommy gunners. But this is not all—in the squares and streets pits were discovered filled to the brim with German dead; some of the pits were not even covered. But even that is not all. . . . We walk through the corridors and vaults of Saint Dominic's church. The remaining galleries of this massive and enormous building are piled with corpses like a morgue after a natural calamity. Whether they were dead when they were put here, or whether the Germans brought their mortally wounded to this place, is hard to say. Yet this solution of the enigma suggests itself. We descended into the vaults and discovered a huge, pestilential cellar. In the light of a few feeble candles we found hundreds of gravely wounded soldiers who had been abandoned to their fate by the German officers. For several days they had been rotting alive in filthy bunks, covered with terrible rags. The living and dead were intermingled. When you see this, you begin to believe that the silent corpses above in the galleries were wounded but still living men when they were brought here.

I spoke to the few men lying in the vault who were still able to talk. I have often heard German prisoners pretend to abuse and curse Hitler, but this time it seemed to me their curses were unfeigned. Day after day they were promised relief. But it did not come. Day after day they were promised they would be withdrawn. They did not know how this was to be done, but still they hoped. But they were not withdrawn. As long as they could stand on their feet and fight they were issued bread and water and even wine. But as soon as they collapsed, they were brought here and forgotten, left without food, medicines or medical attention—like dogs. Hitler had no use for cripples. Toward the end nobody even took the trouble to deceive them with promises. The wolf law of Nazism revealed itself in all its ugly nakedness.

The only doctor these wounded men have seen in the past days was a Soviet doctor. They also have reason to be grateful to Soviet sappers. Their solicitous countrymen forgot to leave medicines and food for their wounded when they retreated—but they did not forget to leave delayed-action mines in surrounding houses. That is why, perhaps for the first time in this war, I heard such unanimous and apparently unfeigned abuse of Hitler.

From the church we went to the vaults of the castle. It stands on the steep bank of a river in the western outskirts of Tarnopol, an ancient Sixth Century structure, as massive as the church. In its vaults, too, we found rows of wooden bunks, the same nauseating stench of decaying flesh and groans of wounded who had been abandoned to their fate.

We drove slowly through the city streets. Only

when you examine house after house do you realize the formidable and heroic task of the Soviet troops who fought in these streets. Narrow firing slits in windows and secret entrances to deep, almost bottomless cellars, had to be taken one by one. Even after devastating artillery fire the Germans had to be ferreted out from behind every window, niche and wall with bayonet and grenade. Here, for example, is a school building. Even now, in its ruins, it looks like a fortress.

Incidentally, among the Germans who held Tarnopol there were, besides the full complement of officers, over 400 officers who fought as privates in disciplinary battalions. Two battalions and three companies were made up entirely of officers in disgrace.

The city is still enveloped in smoke, but it is already beginning to revive. Life will not be denied, and here and there citizens—Ukrainians and Poles—are emerging from their underground refuges. They blink their eyes at the light and doff their caps in greeting to the Soviet soldiers. Some of them came out into the open much earlier. Colonel Kucherenko told me that several times while the fight for the city was raging he saw civilians amid the hail of bullets and shell splinters, helping Soviet artillerymen to draw their guns through the streets.

The town suffered heavily. But it is a liberated city, and that means it will return to life. This certainty is written in the faces of all its citizens, even those who suffered most. Under the Germans, Tarnopol was as dead as a prison. Every town under German rule is a prison, no matter what the signs at the street crossings may say.

Soviet Planes Pound Germans in Crimea

From the Crimean Front a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent reports:

All day long Stormoviks, fighters and bombers roar through the Crimean skies en route to Sevastopol, where they pound the Germans hemmed in on the last bit of enemy-held Crimean soil.

Our torpedo carriers overtake enemy transports trying to escape from Sevastopol. The night is no quieter than the day. Night bombers take over the work of daylight raiders. Mine-carrying planes sow their cargoes on the escape roads of enemy ships. Sometimes the mines are laid at a considerable distance from the harbor. German ships which succeed in getting out of Sevastopol and feel themselves safe, often strike mines at the approaches to their ports. But the most devastating blows are dealt the enemy in Sevastopol harbor; within the past few days alone Soviet fliers sank about a dozen enemy transports and a number of smaller craft.

WORK OF STATE PUBLISHING HOUSES DURING WAR

By A. Nazarov

The author is Assistant Director of the Association of State Publishing Houses of the USSR.

Chief among the book-publishing organizations of the Soviet Union is Ogiz—the Association of State Publishing Houses. Ogiz is composed of seven central and 16 regional publishing houses, including the State Literature Publishing House, the Belles-Lettres Publishing House, the State Scientific and Technico-Theoretical Literature Publishing House, the State Agricultural Literature Publishing House, the State Publishers of Foreign and National Dictionaries, the Soviet Encyclopedia Publishing House and the Scientific Institute Publishing House.

Ogiz is concerned only with those publishing houses whose literature is not limited to departmental subjects, but is of interest to the whole Soviet Union. Publishing houses specializing in departmental literature are under the jurisdiction of the respective People's Commissariats. For example, the State Pedagogical Publishing House, which issues textbooks for schools and training colleges, comes under the People's Commissariat of Education. The no less important Medical Literature Publishing House is under the People's Commissariat of Public Health. The People's Commissariat of the Iron and Steel Industry has its own publishing house.

Literature in the National Tongues

The publishing houses of the various Republics of the Soviet Union issue literature in the national languages: they come under the respective Councils of People's Commissariats. Many of the regional publishing houses are under the executive committees of the regional Soviets.

Ogiz also controls Kogiz, the largest book-selling institution in the Soviet Union. Kogiz has branches in 49 regions and Republics of the USSR, and more than 1,300 bookshops, bookstalls and library supply organizations. Books published by Ogiz represent 45 to 50 per cent of the total turnover of the book-selling association.

Weapon of the Printed Word

When war broke out, Soviet publishers reorganized their work to meet the demands of the front and rear. Many leisurely volumes had to give way to pamphlet-size wartime publications. The first pamphlets on the war appeared the morning after the German invasion of the country.

The Soviet publishing houses held it to be their wartime duty to equip the army and the people with the weapon of the printed word. From June 22, 1941

to the end of 1943, Ogiz issued 5,355 titles of books and journals with a total circulation of not less than 200 million copies. The output of the central publishing houses alone during that period was: political books and pamphlets, 700 titles in 100 million copies; belles-lettres, 376 titles in over 15 million copies; agricultural books and pamphlets, 26,500,000 copies; technico-theoretical books, 86 titles in two million copies; dictionaries and reference books, 139 titles in 3,350,000 copies. The Ogiz group of regional publishing houses issued 3,570 titles in 50 million copies.

Output Increases During War

The output of Soviet publishing houses has actually increased during the war. For example: in 1942 the Ogiz central houses issued 670 titles in 48,200,000 copies. The figures for 1943 were 780 titles in 61 million copies.

War subjects rightly take first place in Soviet publishing lists. But in addition an exceedingly wide and varied field is covered—political, industrial, scientific, technical and cultural. As well as the classics of Marxism and Leninism, the State Political Literature Publishing House has issued, since the beginning of the war, several hundred books and pamphlets on the Red Army's struggle against the fascist barbarians, works exposing the essence of fascism and the atrocities of the German fascists in territories occupied by them in the Soviet Union and other European countries, works extolling the heroic labor of the Soviet home front, works dedicated to the heroic past of the Russian people and works describing the struggle of the peoples of Europe against Hitler tyranny.

In 1943 this publishing house issued a series of books on the battles for Moscow and Leningrad, the defense of Sevastopol and Stalingrad, the Orel battle, the battle for Kharkov and the liberation of the Donbas. A number of books were also issued on the guerrilla struggle.

One series of booklets dealt with the great Russian military leaders Dmitri Donskoi, Dmitri Pozharsky, Kuzma Minin, Alexander Nevsky, Suvorov, Kutuzov, Bagration and Brusilov. The total publication of these booklets exceeded two million copies. Thirteen titles of Joseph Stalin's works in 40,341,000 copies were published. The past year saw a third edition of Stalin's book *On the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union*. This was sold out in a few days.

In 1943 the *History of the Civil War in the USSR*, Volume III of the *History of Philosophy*, and two

(Continued on page six)

SOVIET LITERATURE

By Konstantin Kasradze

We classify as Soviet literature that literature which has developed among the peoples of the USSR since the October Revolution. About 40,000 novels and books of verse, plays and stories interpreting Soviet life have been written since 1917.

The first writer to express the revolutionary energy of the Russian people was Maxim Gorky. V. M. Molotov has said that Gorky influences Russian literature as powerfully as Pushkin, Gogol and Tolstoy, of whose traditions he is the worthy heir. Gorky is the living bridge between the classical Russian literature of the past and the new literature which has sprung up in the Russia of the Soviet epoch.

Soviet literature has portrayed the Civil War in Russia and the vast industrial reconstruction which followed. Vladimir Mayakovsky, Alexei Tolstoy, Mikhail Sholokhov, Alexander Fadeyev, Leonid Leonov, Nikolai Ostrovsky, Ilya Ehrenburg, Nikolai Pogodin—these are but a few of the remarkable generation of writers who have flourished on the ideas and achievements of this period.

Mayakovsky (1893–1930) created a new type of lyric poetry permeated with the passion of the everyday struggle for socialism. Mayakovsky combines the poet's vision with urgently topical matter. He glorifies the duty of a soldier of the Revolution. Joseph Stalin said of him that he was the most talented poet of the Soviet epoch.

The Soviet epoch has seen a remarkable development of the historical novel. One of the outstanding masters of this literary form is Sergeyev-Tsenskyy, born in 1876. He is the author of a three-volume

novel on the defense of Sevastopol. Alexei Tolstoy's *Peter the First* and *Road to Calvary* are other distinguished examples.

But Soviet literature is more than Russian literature. Over 40 other nationalities of the USSR—Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Uzbek, Kazakh, to mention only a few—are expressing themselves vividly in literary forms.

Many Soviet peoples have acquired their national written language and grammar only since the establishment of Soviet power. The young literatures of the peoples of the Far North, of the once-nomadic peoples of Middle Asia, are fruits of the Soviet epoch. Folk-lore, far from being overshadowed by the development of the printed word, has flourished abundantly since the Revolution. The famous Kazakh folk singer, 98-year-old Djambul, is famous all over the Soviet Union.

In the present war Soviet literature, which is profoundly democratic and anti-fascist in spirit, has placed itself unreservedly at the service of the Soviet people in their struggle. It is the Soviet writer's privilege to extol the heroism of Soviet warriors and their self-sacrificing love for their country. Of 3,000 members of the Soviet Writers Union, about 900 have gone to the front as soldiers, war correspondents or members of the staffs of front-line newspapers. Eugene Petrov, one of the most talented of Soviet satirists, died at his post as war correspondent.

The coalescence of the writer's creation with the people—in ideas, language and interests—is the key to literary development in the USSR.

NEW LIBRARIES FOR DEVASTATED AREAS

There were 250,000 State libraries in the USSR before the war, with a total of half a billion books. German destruction of many rich libraries in the temporarily-occupied areas has reduced this figure. According to far from complete data, more than 23.4 million books were destroyed by the invaders in the Russian SFSR alone.

The People's Commissariat of Public Education has created a special literature fund to supply books to the liberated areas. All collections of books are distributed from this fund. Every factory and institution in the Soviet Union is taking part in the campaign for books for the devastated regions. Within a short period Moscow collected 1,200,000 volumes, and the total figure for the country has reached more than five million. Over 756 libraries have been reestablished in liberated areas.

The gift volumes cover the most varied fields. There

are works by Lenin and Stalin, textbooks and encyclopedias, modern poetry and the classics of all times and all peoples. Novels by Dostoevsky, translations from Homer and many foreign classics in the original languages have been received, including the works of Shakespeare and Byron in English, and an old and very valuable London edition of *Hamlet*.

The Lenin All-Union Library has allocated 200,000 volumes of its repository toward the book fund for liberated areas, and other libraries have put tens of thousands of volumes at its disposal.

The people of Moscow have taken patronage over many districts of their region which suffered German occupation at the beginning of the war. The Zheleznodorozhny district of the Capital recently sent 2,000 books to the Verei district as a gift to mark the second anniversary of the expulsion of the Germans from Verei.



1) A. A. Yelistratova, student of philological sciences, whose thesis "Fielding and Education in the 18th Century" won a prize in the Moscow Contests for Young Scientists, is seen in the library of her home



2) Workers of the tool shop of the Stalin auto plant relax in one of the factory reading rooms during their lunch period



3) View of the circular reading room of the Saltykov-Shchedrin State Library in Leningrad

Ninety-four Miles of Books

By Anatoli Vakhov

The Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library in Leningrad was founded in 1795, but was not opened to the public until 20 years later, when it had accumulated 275,000 volumes. In the 130 years since that date, the collections have grown enormously and today if the shelves were placed end to end they would stretch for 94 miles.

Only four libraries—the British Museum, the Library of Congress in Washington, the National Library in Paris and the Lenin All-Union Library in Moscow—exceed the Saltykov-Shchedrin in size. Its reading and reference rooms serve students, scientists, historians and statesmen. Pavlov, Timiryazev, Mendeleyev, Sechenov, Tolstoy, Gorky and Plekhanov worked at the Saltykov-Shchedrin Library, and Lenin was one of its regular readers.

The Library maintains close contact with scientific research institutes at home and abroad. It daily receives about 1,000 new publications and issues 400 bibliographical references.

Since the outbreak of war the habits of the Saltykov-Shchedrin Library include commanders, military experts, surgeons and industrial workers. During the blockade of Leningrad—despite hunger and cold and long hours of enemy bombardment—the librarians worked devotedly to preserve the books.

The scientific staff is now making a collection of all printed material dealing with wartime Leningrad, including books, posters, newspapers, theater tickets and even ration cards. Over 20,000 items have been assembled and 35,000 bibliographic entries made. Writers already find this material valuable for reference, and it will be indispensable in the compilation of a history of the defense of Leningrad.

Another large task undertaken by the Library is the compilation of a Slavonic Bibliography—an elementary glossary of everything printed in the Russian and foreign press on the history, economy and culture of the Slavonic peoples. A volume entitled *The Heroism of the Russian People in Proverbs*, prepared by the Library, was published recently.

Now that Leningrad has been freed from the blockade, contacts are being reestablished with scientific research institutes at home and abroad. Letters are received daily from English, Chinese, Afghan, Australian, and other friends. Red Army men often send greetings from the battle zones.

For its services to the people, the Saltykov-Shchedrin Library received the award of the Order of the Red Banner of Labor in 1939.

PUBLISHING HOUSES

(Continued from page three)

books by Professor Eugene Tarle on Napoleon's invasion of Russia, were also issued by the State Political Literature Publishing House.

Leningrad Publishers Worked Under Blockade

The Leningrad Branch of the State Political Literature Publishing House continued work during the siege and issued a number of books and pamphlets, among them a series under the general title *Men of Genius of the Great Russian Nation*, and short biographies of eminent Russian writers, poets, artists and composers, including Maxim Gorky, Nekrasov, Pushkin, Repin, Glinka and Tchaikovsky.

During the war the State Belles-Lettres Publishing House has issued several score of Russian classical works, among them Tolstoy's *War and Peace* in four volumes, Herzen's *Who's Guilty?* and the *Diary of Guerrilla Operations* by Davydov, the famous Russian guerrilla of the Patriotic War of 1812.

A wartime series of *Modern Prose and Poetry* includes A. N. Tolstoy's trilogy *The Road of Hardship*, Sergeyev-Tsensky's long historical novel *The Harvest of Sevastopol*, Ehrenburg's *The Fall of Paris*, Borodin's *Dmitri Donskoi*, Yan's two historical novels and Wanda Wasilewska's *The Rainbow* (400,000 copies) and L. Sobolev's *Sea Soul*. The authors of all of these works have been awarded Stalin Prizes.

In 1942 a series of volumes under the title *Slav Library* began to appear. The best works of writers in the national languages of the USSR are being translated into Russian. A number of foreign classics have also been published during the war: works by Chaucer, Mark Twain and de Maupassant. Pasternak's new translations of *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear* will be issued shortly.

Soviet publishing houses are planning a further extension of their work in 1944. They propose to issue a greater volume of classics, both political and belles-lettres, as well as scientific, technical and agricultural literature.

The Sevastopol Stone

By Leonid Sobolev

The old boatswain, Prokhor Vasyukov, regards himself as a real dyed-in-the-wool Sevastopol native. But more than once he has had to leave his beloved city for a year or two. He even left it once for ten years and some months, but turned up again at last. And as he opened the wicket gate of his home, he saw the old plane tree spreading a carpet of dappled shade for his feet, and heard its welcoming rustle.

In 1920, when he and Mikhail Frunze wound up the glorious Crimean campaign, the old bosun returned to his home and settled down snugly, with the firm intention of never leaving again. But fate, as sometimes happens, willed otherwise. The city was temporarily occupied by the Germans, and Prokhor changed his place of abode to the Caucasian Coast. He is still there, but stubbornly refuses to unpack most of his bags and valises. He sits surrounded by his luggage, ready any day to start for home.

"I'm like that Sevastopol stone . . . I've got to be in my own place . . . You've heard of the stone, haven't you?" he asked me. I had to admit that I had not heard of it.

He was silent. Then he snorted, blew out his mustache, and in a condescending and derisive tone remarked, "What kind of Black Sea sailor do you call yourself . . . if you have never heard of the stone? Everybody should know about it. Supposing it was to come into your hands . . . what would you do with it?"

Thus I first heard the legend of the Sevastopol stone, a noble Black Sea story. I later heard it many times from other sailors in ships and submarines, in dugouts and batteries. But I never had a chance to see the stone itself.

* * *

The story begins at the time we were withdrawing from Sevastopol by order of the Supreme Command. The evacuation of our troops was covered by marines—genuine fighters, the best and bravest. They knew they would be the last men in the city; that most of them would not get away. One against a hundred, they fought to check the fascist onslaught and did not yield a single inch of their positions. We know how they did their duty. Deathless glory to them!

They did not all perish; some reached the mountains and joined the guerrillas; others crossed in rafts and launches to the Caucasian shore. In one of the craft heading for the Tuapse shore were four men. One was dying. The other three rowed in doomy silence. Their comrade had been struck down

by a shell in the streets of Sevastopol. They carried him to the shore and took him out to sea with them; the Germans would not be able to boast that they had taken a Sevastopol marine prisoner.

The men had been four days at sea. They did all they could for their wounded comrade, but they had neither surgical instruments nor medicine, nor even fresh water and hardtack. They ate jellyfish. The wounded man grew steadily worse. On the fourth day he was dying. . . .

When the three men had picked up their comrade at the Sevastopol monument to ships lost at sea, they did not notice that he was clutching in his hand a lump of gray stone chipped from the granite of the embankment by a shell. Later, as they were dressing his wounds, they found it and were going to throw it overboard. But the sailor said hoarsely, "Don't touch it. It is a stone of Sevastopol. Put it in my inside pocket, so that it will always lie on my breast."

So until his last hour he was not parted from his stone. Death came hard to him. His mind wandered, he moaned and begged for water. The youngest sailor leaned over the side of the boat and caught a large, transparently pale orange-striped jellyfish. He tore off a lump of the slippery, watery jelly; there was nothing else to offer his dying comrade. The sun beat down on them, scorched them; nothing was to be seen for hundreds of miles except the sultry blue expanse of sky and the dazzling waste of the calm salt water.

The sailor died. But a few moments before his death, understanding returned to him. He gave his friends the Sevastopol stone.

"I had a fancy that one day I would return to Sevastopol and put this chip of stone back in its place and cement it there, and then my heart would be at rest," he said. "Until then I would wear it in my breast and let it burn and trouble me and give me no peace day or night until our own Soviet flag flew once more over my own Sevastopol. . . But it was not to be. Death beat me to it. Take it, boys . . . you're all from the Black Sea. Keep it safe. My last words to you . . . it's got to go back to Sevastopol. This stone must be put in its place with strong cement by a sailor's hand and no other. . . ."

Toward evening the body of the sailor was consigned to the deep. There were no iron bars on the boat, no weights to attach to the feet, so the body did not sink at once, but floated in the water, a dark shape, as though reminding the others of his dying words.

The stone was given into the keeping of the marine

who was senior in age and service. On their 15th day at sea the men were rescued. First they heard the roar of one of our planes overhead; soon afterward a cutter summoned by the pilot came out and took them ashore, where they were placed in a hospital. The nurse asked if they had any valuables they wanted to put in safe-keeping. The senior marine held out the stone. "There's this," he said. "It must be kept safely. It is a Sevastopol stone." The nurse looked surprised, but said nothing. She brought a receipt on which was written, "One stone, gray, weight 270 grams."

Two weeks later when the marine came out of the hospital, he was told he could go home on leave. His reply was to ask to be sent to the front, to the hottest sector. He insisted, and soon he was at the front.

He fought now as a sniper. Each day his score was increased by three, five and sometimes even seven of the enemy. He kept the Sevastopol stone with him, and it became a legend that whenever he sighted a German and took aim, the stone grew warmer until it burned his flesh and his striped jersey showed a scorched mark at the spot where the stone lay.

He knew neither fear nor fatigue, and his aim never failed. Each morning before it was light he would go into ambush. He was taciturn; at night when he returned he simply showed his empty cartridges and his comrades understood: four meant four dead Germans, six meant six. He put them in a box and thus kept count of the enemy killed.

One day the marine crawled back from ambush with a bullet in his breast. When he died, his comrades counted the cartridges in his box and found 311. They were sent to his mother with a letter of sympathy.

The Sevastopol stone passed into the hands of a cheerful marine scout, a dashing fellow who went again and again to the enemy rear to get prisoners who would talk. He did his job as simply as though he was only going to his own garden. When he was sent to the hospital with a serious wound, the stone was given to a signaler from the marines. Soon this man was wearing an order on his blouse, presented for reestablishing communications under fire.

It is said that after him the stone passed into the keeping of the artillery; then some machine gunners had it. It was regarded as belonging to the whole crew. Finally it came into the hands of a pilot, who brought down three Junkers in a dogfight, and when his ammunition gave out, downed a fourth by ramming.

No one knew to whom the pilot gave the stone before going into a hospital. Some said it went to a sniper; others that it is in a submarine somewhere; another story was that someone actually saw it in the hands of Black Sea pilots who were determined to keep it and bring it back to Sevastopol in the first plane to land there. But no matter who has it—submarinemen, artillerymen or pilots, we need not worry. It is sure to be in strong and reliable hands.

* * *

If you want to see it, come to Sevastopol when the war is over. You will easily find Bosun Prokhor Vasyukhov over at the quayside. Everyone knows him. The old men will take you down to the embankment and show you the spot, not far from the monument to ships lost at sea, where the stone is firmly cemented in its place. And he won't forget to remind you that it was placed there by a sailor's hand. Place your cheek against it and see if it is not still warm....

New Decorations for Soviet Naval Officers

The Order of Ushakov, recently instituted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, is awarded to officers of the Navy for outstanding successes in elaborating, conducting and securing active naval operations as a result of which victory over numerically superior enemy forces is achieved.

It is worn after the Order of Suvorov of the corresponding class. The Order of Ushakov, First Class, is a platinum five-pointed star, in the center of which is a golden circle. The name "Admiral Ushakov" is embossed in gold letters on its upper part. A relief portrait of the Admiral appears in the center. The Order of Ushakov, Second Class, is the same as the First Class, with the difference that the star is of gold and the circle of blue enamel, with silver letters and portrait in relief.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has also instituted the Order of Nakhimov, to be awarded to officers of the Navy for outstanding successes in elaborating, conducting and securing naval operations as a result of which an enemy offensive operation is repulsed or active operations of the Navy are insured, considerable losses inflicted on the enemy and the main Soviet forces preserved.

It is worn after the Order of Kutuzov of the corresponding class. The design is a five-pointed star containing in the center a circle with the name Admiral Nakhimov on its upper part, and inside it a portrait bust of the Admiral.

The institution of Ushakov and Nakhimov Medals for naval rank and file, petty officers and sergeants who distinguish themselves has also been announced.

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Statement of Andrei Y. Vyshinsky

On April 22 the Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Andrei Y. Vyshinsky, made the following statement to representatives of the Soviet and foreign press:

As is already known from previously published reports of the Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, in mid-February of this year the Finnish government addressed the Soviet Government with a proposal to commence negotiations on the termination of war operations by Finland and on Finland's withdrawal from the war.

To this proposal the Soviet Government replied that it had no grounds to feel particular confidence in the present Finnish government, but if the Finns had no other possibility, the Soviet Government in the interests of peace agreed to negotiate with the present Finnish government on the cessation of hostilities. The Soviet terms of armistice, formulated in the well-known six clauses, were published on March 1.

When the Soviet terms were being presented to the Finnish government, the latter was informed that if the Finnish government agreed to accept these terms the Soviet Government was prepared to receive Finland's representatives in Moscow to negotiate the conclusion of a concrete agreement. In its reply concerning the Soviet terms of armistice presented to the Soviet Legation in Stockholm on March 8, the Finnish government stated:

"The Finnish Government, which seriously strives to reestablish within the shortest time peaceful relations between Finland and the USSR, has closely studied the terms of armistice presented by the Soviet Union to Finland. The Finnish Government realizes that for Finland to be able to remain neutral after the conclusion of the armistice it is necessary that no foreign troops belonging to the belligerent country be stationed on her territory. However, this problem is so complicated that it requires more detailed discussion. Therefore the Finnish Government wishes to propose the commencement of negotiations, so that the Finns might explain their viewpoint on this and on other problems in connection with the terms of armistice proposed by the Soviet Government."

The Soviet Government found this reply unsatisfactory. This was communicated to the Finnish government and the latter's attention was drawn to the fact that the Soviet terms of armistice in the shape of the six clauses presented to Paasikivi were minimal and elementary and that only in the event of acceptance of these terms by the Finnish government, Soviet-Finnish negotiations on the cessation of hostilities were possible.

Informing the Finnish government of this, the Soviet Government declared that it would await a positive reply during one week, after which the Soviet Government would consider that the Finns had intentionally protracted the negotiations for some incomprehensible purposes and that they rejected the Soviet terms. On March 17, the Finnish government presented to the Soviet Government its reply, which said:

"Finland's Government, which, as previously, seriously strives for the reestablishment of peaceful relations and wishes to commence negotiations, cannot, however, declare beforehand acceptance of the terms in question, which affect the existence of the entire nation, without even being firmly certain of the interpretation of these terms and of their meaning."

Despite the fact that in essence this Finnish reply was negative, the Soviet Government deemed it possible to communicate to the Finnish government the following:

1. The Soviet Government does not object to the Finnish government sending one or several of its representatives to receive from the Soviet Government an interpretation of the Soviet terms of armistice.
2. The Soviet Government considers that Moscow would be the most appropriate place for representatives of the Finnish government to obtain the most exhaustive interpretation.

On March 26, a delegation of the Finnish government consisting of Paasikivi and Enkel arrived in Moscow. On March 27 and 29 the Finnish delega-

tion met representatives of the Soviet Government Molotov and Dekanozov. As a result of the exchange of opinions between Soviet and Finnish representatives, the following Soviet proposals concerning peace with Finland were presented to the Finnish delegation:

1. Severance of relations with Germany and the internment of German troops and ships in Finland, or else the severance of relations with Germany and the expulsion of German troops and ships from Finland not later than the close of the month of April. In either case the Soviet Government can render Finland aid with its armed forces.

2. Restitution of the Soviet-Finnish treaty of 1940 and the withdrawal of Finnish troops to the frontier of 1940 to be carried out in stages during the month of April.

3. Immediate repatriation of Soviet and Allied war prisoners, also Soviet and Allied civilians kept in concentration camps or used by the Finns for work; while should the USSR and Finland sign a peace treaty and not an armistice, the repatriation of war prisoners should be reciprocal.

4. Demobilization of 50 per cent of the Finnish army to be carried out during the month of May, and the transfer of the entire Finnish army to a peace footing to be carried out during June and July (this clause should form a part of the treaty or should be given the shape of a separate Soviet-Finnish agreement to be signed simultaneously with the peace or armistice treaty).

5. Compensation for damages caused by Finland to the Soviet Union by the hostilities and the occupation of Soviet territory, in the sum of 600 million American dollars, paid in the course of five years in goods (paper, cellulose, sea and river ships and various machinery).

6. Restoration to the Soviet Union of Petsamo and the Petsamo region, which the Soviet Union voluntarily ceded to Finland under the peace treaties of 1920 and 1940.

7. In the event of the acceptance by the Finnish party of the above six conditions, the Soviet Government deems it possible to renounce in favor of Finland its right to the lease of Hangoe and the area of Hangoe without any compensation.

As seen from the above text, these proposals gave concrete formulation of the clauses of the Soviet terms on the demobilization of the Finnish army, on compensation for damages which Finland caused the Soviet Union by hostilities and the occupation of Soviet territory, and also on Petsamo.

In addition, a new clause was introduced on the

cessation of Hangoe and the area of Hangoe in favor of Finland.

As to the Finnish delegation, it did not propose any corrections of the Soviet armistice terms or present any proposals of its own concerning armistice terms.

On April 19, i.e., three weeks after the above Soviet armistice terms were presented to the Finns, the Finnish government communicated its reply to these terms through the medium of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This reply said:

"The Finnish Government received the proposals of the Government of the USSR concerning peace with Finland, which were presented on March 29 in more precise formulation to representatives of the Finnish Government Paasikivi and Enkel. These proposals were examined and studied by the Finnish Government and were submitted to the Diet for discussion.

"In the course of this it was considered that the acceptance of these proposals, which are partly impossible of realization even for technical reasons, would to a considerable extent weaken and violate the conditions under which Finland can continue to exist as an independent state, and would impose on the Finnish people burdens which, according to unanimous and competent testimony considerably exceed its strength.

"In view of this the Finnish Government, which seriously strives for the reestablishment of good and stable peaceful relations with its great neighbor in the East, regrets that the proposals which it recently received and carefully studied offer no possibility for the realization of this striving."

To this declaration of the Finnish government the Soviet Government sent the following reply on April 22:

"On April 19, the Soviet Government received the reply of the government of Finland to Soviet armistice terms presented in Moscow to the Finnish delegation composed of Paasikivi and Enkel.

"The Soviet Government notes that in its reply Finland's government declined the Soviet armistice terms as a basis for negotiations and discontinued negotiations on armistice."

The statement of the Finnish government that the Soviet proposals are allegedly partly impossible of realization for technical reasons is absolutely inconsistent. The Finnish delegation did not even raise any such question in Moscow. The Finnish government's attempt to evade responsibility as regards compensation for damages which Finland caused to the Soviet Union by hostilities and the occupation of Soviet territory cannot be justified by anything. As

a result of the attack on the Soviet Union and occupation of its territory, Finland caused our country enormous losses and damages which she is obliged to compensate, in accordance with all the rules of justice. To write off this debt from Finland would mean to give a premium to the aggressor for acts of aggression, plunder and destruction.

The Finnish government's statement that the Soviet proposals would impose on the Finnish people a burden beyond its strength is groundless, since this question has not yet come under discussion and the Finnish delegation in Moscow did not state that it considered the problem of compensation for damages as the principal problem in the reestablishment of peace.

The negotiations with the Finnish delegation in Moscow made it clear that the main question for the Finnish government is the demand of the Soviet Government concerning the internment or expulsion of German troops stationed in Finland. The Finnish government asserts that acceptance of the Soviet proposals allegedly endangers the further existence of Finland as an independent state. This is certainly not true. Present-day Finland possesses no state independence. She lost it at the moment when she admitted German troops to her territory.

The point in question now is the restoration of Finland's lost independence by means of the expulsion of German troops from Finland and the cessa-

tion of hostilities. It is known that as a result of the fact that the Finnish government admitted German troops to its territory for a joint attack on the Soviet Union, the entire northern half of Finland fell into the hands of the Germans, who are the true masters there and who have converted Finland into a semi-occupied country.

But in the southern part of Finland the Finnish government does not possess full power either. In essence, after the Finnish government voluntarily yielded power in northern Finland to the Germans, it ceased to be master in its own home. In its relations with the German fascists, the Finnish government went to such lengths that already it cannot, and as a matter of fact, does not, wish to break with them. It placed its country at the service of the interests of Hitlerite Germany. Precisely for this reason the most difficult problem for the Finnish government was the demand for the internment or expulsion of German troops from Finland and for the severance of relations with Germany.

The present Finnish government does not wish to expel the German troops from Finland. It does not wish to reestablish peaceful relations. It prefers to leave its country in vassal subjection to Hitlerite Germany.

After this statement Vyshinsky answered numerous questions put by representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

PSKOV GUERRILLAS ON THE MARCH

The following account is by a war correspondent who visited a guerrilla unit behind the enemy lines:

From the nameless lake on which our plane alighted we reached a highroad. For several days past the guerrillas had been masters of this road and the neighboring villages. We drove into a large village. Both village and highroad were congested with carts and men—the guerrilla detachments were on the march. At the roadside stood a tall man wearing a colonel's shoulderstraps—the guerrilla commander, Nikolai Alexandrovich. His detachment, acting in cooperation with the Red Army, captured Slantsy and Osmino and about 1,000 villages.

At guerrilla headquarters we learned that a large column of Germans which had infiltrated along the country lanes had emerged on the highroad and was on its way toward the guerrilla camp. War prisoners stated that remnants of one routed division had been ordered to capture the highway and keep it open for German troop movements. One fascist battalion had already captured a key village. The commander decided to surround and wipe out the enemy.

Daredevils armed with grenades and automatic rifles crawled toward the houses. The Nazis, mistaking this group for the main force, opened fire from all their weapons. Soon the command, "Forward!" came from behind a height, and the detachments rushed down. The Germans were stunned. They fled in panic. Forty-five minutes later the guerrillas had already counted the booty and piled it in the center of the village.

The enemy battalion had been completely wiped out. Nevertheless, with German dullness the Nazi general in command of the division to which the annihilated battalion belonged kept driving his troops along the same road. The column stretched for several kilometers. The Germans thought the calm forest, carefully combed by the fire of mobile mortars, held no more dangers for them.

Suddenly tommy guns, machine guns and rifles spoke up from behind trees and snowdrifts. Grenades burst in the Germans' midst. Charges planted under bridges spanning rivulets and ditches exploded. The highroad became a road of death for the Germans. When dusk fell the Nazi column no longer existed.

TRAVEL NOTES FROM MOLDAVIA

By Valentin Katayev

Well-known Soviet Author and Playwright

Enroute to the Second Ukrainian Front we have already flown over many rivers—the Northern Donets, the Dnieper and Ingul. The weather looks a bit doubtful. Sometimes it clears up, then suddenly the fog comes down, followed by rain and snow.

Beyond the Uman we plunge into the midst of a heavy snow, and from then on have our work cut out to find the airdrome in the gauzy white whirlwind. Nothing is to be seen when we land; the storm eddies around us, blinds us, sweeps us off our feet. There is nothing to do but wait for better weather. . . .

* * *

We are now going through Uman, and the going is pretty heavy, due to the quantities of abandoned German equipment blocking streets, squares, gardens and alleys. It is impossible to guess the number of these Tigers, Panthers, Ferdinands, tractors, gun carriers, passenger cars and trucks. There must have been a downright massacre here.

The German divisions smashed by the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front abandoned everything. They fled to the west, leaving valises, overcoats and boots in the mud. They ran barefoot. I think no army in the world ever turned tail and fled so disgracefully as the German army in the winter and spring of this year. Here is a German heavy tank that crashed into a transformer station. The transformer collapsed and caught fire and so did the Tiger. They stand together—frightful charred reminders of the German flight.

But now that is past and done: German tanks, German pants, German boots and German "glory" all remain on the endless Ukrainian roads.

Westward through Soviet Uman marches the rear-guard, keeping up with the vanguard of Marshal Konev's glorious Second Ukrainian Front.

* * *

Once more we are on our way. Once more the mistily green Ukrainian fields and black roads strewn with abandoned German equipment unfold in a panorama beneath us. So we come to the Dniester. The river winds between high, steep banks, its swift leaden waters swollen with the spring floods. Here it is much warmer and drier and you can feel the south.

The Dniester is soon left far behind. We are in the heart of Moldavia. The weather is warm. Children crowd around the airplane. They are fine youngsters, wearing tall sheepskin caps, brown

homespun coats and trousers. Their feet are bare, their eyes brown and merry and their teeth white and sound as young corn. They stare at our Red Army men as though they were the most wonderful miracle, and welcome them joyously—as they welcomed their liberators, these same Red Army men, in 1940.

Since 1941 the German invader has oppressed and treated as slaves the industrious, clever and talented Moldavian people, who had again fallen into Rumanian bondage. Once a flourishing country, Moldavia was reduced to the position of a colony. The Rumanians did not regard the Moldavians as people. The Rumanian "mother country" knew only how to take from the Moldavian people—but gave them nothing.

The Rumanians themselves—those smaller birds of prey—formed an agrarian appendage to the stronger beast of prey, German imperialism. Thus the Moldavian people languished under a double pressure which squeezed out the vital sap from two sides—the Rumanians on the one hand and the Germans on the other.

The only mill we noticed from the air belonged to a German. A monopolist, he held the entire territory in his hands. A kulak who skinned people, he dragged them all into his net. Every local man who tilled the land was dependent upon him and in his debt. They all took off their hats and bowed low to him.

The Red Army has liberated the village. The German miller ran away; he did not even have time to destroy his mill, so swift was the Red Army's onslaught. The German ran with his tongue hanging out and lost his pants on the way. His house, the best in the village, was built with an attempt at style; it had a veranda with columns and its walls were painted in imitation of marble. He left his office with its "modernistic" desks and chairs, his fireproof safe, his ledgers and the lists of his debtors.

Now his house is occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Shundrikov, Commander of a Guards unit of attack planes. A vast map is spread on the floor. Colonel Shundrikov comes into the room carrying a large coat-hanger. He places this on the map to serve as a ruler. With a red pencil he draws in his new course to Kishinev and Jassy.

I don't envy the Germans who encounter Shundrikov on land or in the air. A man of iron resolution and swift decision, he is absolutely fearless. Formidable in battle and relentless toward the enemy, with his comrades he displays only good-will and af-



Soviet Cavalry Guardsmen in pursuit of the enemy ford a stream with their rifles at the ready

fection. He is a true "Stalin falcon." Lean, well-built, and quick, his hands, accustomed to the controls, are constantly moving while he talks to you.

As commander of an attack plane unit, Shundrikov goes on the most responsible and dangerous missions. The day I met him he was seated at a table in the command post, busy with preparations for the transfer of his units to a new post in the west. The telephone rang; he picked up the receiver. "Forget-me-not speaking," he said. "How are you? What? The newspaper for April 9. . . . No, I haven't read it yet. I'm always on the move." Then for some time he listened intently, pressing the receiver close to his ear.

Suddenly he rose from his seat, drew himself up to attention. "I serve the Soviet Union," he said, speaking very distinctly. There was a queer sparkle in his eyes as he replaced the receiver. He sat down and wiped the perspiration from his forehead, a delighted, boyish smile lighting up his face. The offi-

cers in the room stared at the pale, happy face of their commander.

"What is it? Have you been decorated?" someone inquired.

"No," he replied. The officers exchanged puzzled glances. Then, rising, and speaking as though he were reading an order, Shundrikov said: "An order issued by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev says, 'In battles for the break-through of enemy defenses and for forcing the River Prut, such and such troops, among them the pilots under Lieutenant Colonel Shundrikov's command, distinguished themselves.'" He looked around at the officers.

"Congratulations, friends. Congratulations upon winning this award. For a Soviet officer there can be none higher than Stalin's thanks."

The officers and pilots drew themselves up and replied in clear and firm voices, "We serve the Soviet Union."

REVIEW OF SOVIET INDUSTRY

By I. Marinin

Soviet newspapers recently reported that in Uzbekistan, one of the Republics of the USSR, an open-hearth furnace in a newly-completed metallurgical works had begun operation and the first hundred tons of metal had been produced. The difficulties in constructing this plant were tremendous. In addition to the open-hearth furnace, a machine-repair shop was set up, railway lines and roads laid out and dwelling houses and cultural and social institutions built. According to the appraisal of the Government commission, everything was well done. In approving the work the commission made no allowances for difficult wartime conditions.

New Plant Built on Bare Steppe

Before the war I visited the district where this plant now stands. It was a bare steppe, with neither houses, roads or any other signs of human life. A year ago there were no metallurgists in Uzbekistan. Even the uninitiated understand how complex is the work of building a powerful metallurgical plant, especially under war conditions.

How was it possible that in less than a year the Uzbek Republic was able to supply metal necessary for the offensives now being conducted by the Red Army? The "miracle" occurred because the entire Uzbek people participated in the work. Fraternal aid came from the Urals, Siberia and other industrial districts of the country, which sent steel workers, foremen and engineers to train cadres of metallurgists from among the Uzbeks. Construction of the plant is continuing, and this year will witness the opening of the second and third open-hearth furnaces, a rolling mill, a central electric station, a gas generating plant and other units. The building of an iron alloy factory has also begun.

* * *

A review of the most important happenings in the Soviet rear during the month of March reveals the opening of many new enterprises.

In the Urals a new sheet iron rolling mill began operation in the Seversk metallurgical plant. An idea of its capacity may be obtained from the fact that it weighs several thousand tons and occupies an area of 10,000 square meters.

The industry of Sverdlovsk was enriched by a new tire plant, from which the first lot of automobile tires has already been received. In the Chelyabinsk metallurgical plant builders and fitters installed a boiler in the central heat and power station, completing the work in advance of schedule.

The above work has been carried on far in the rear. But during March the liberated districts have also shown great industrial activity. In Stalingrad the Krasny Oktyabr metallurgical works, completely destroyed by the Germans in the autumn of 1942, and the blooming mill have been restored and are producing. In the Donbas, where the wounds inflicted by the Hitlerites are still gaping, where the sufferings inflicted by the Germans are still fresh, the first blast furnaces are already smoking. Under the warm spring sun the people are laboring with unquenchable zeal to help the Red Army. The struggle for the speeding up of construction is measured not by months and weeks, but by days and hours.

In Stalino a blast furnace has been blown in and an open-hearth furnace and rolling mill are operating. The chemical and coking plant was restored to prewar capacity six days ahead of the date set by the Government. A factory for the production of two-inch tubes has been completed and has begun production in Makeyevka. The open-hearth furnace has been restored in the Voroshilov metallurgical plant.

Similar progress can also be seen in any district of the Donets Basin. On the sites of enterprises wrecked by the Germans, walls are going up and goods are being produced simultaneously in restored shops. The water is being pumped out of flooded mines, while nearby in smaller pits coal is mined. The young workers of the Stalin coal combine in the Donbas, voluntarily working overtime, mined 74 trainloads above the plan in January and February.

Young Workers Acquire New Skills

Among the youth who have come to the mines during the war are many girls, who are doing work which before the war was done only by men. Alexandra Volkova is well-known throughout the Donbas. In 10 months she not only mastered several mining skills, but is now training newcomers and has been promoted to the post of mining forewoman.

The entire Soviet Union is helping in the restoration of the Donbas. From the Volga area, from the Urals and the Far East come trainloads of building material, machine tools, household goods, and equipment for hospitals. This involves considerable obligation, and the people of the Donbas react characteristically to the attention and solicitude of the country. Hundreds of miners would feel ashamed to fulfil their task by less than 150 to 200 per cent. Elderly workers are challenging the young ones, and not unsuccessfully.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of Donbas industry today are the thousands of new front-line brigades which have sprung up in large numbers.

These brigades have a special feature: their initiators, the young people, have set themselves the task of regularly overfulfilling their task by 50 to 100 per cent, at the same time reducing the number of workers in the brigade or team, to produce a greater output with fewer hands. The brigade which carries out such a pledge is honored with the name of front-line brigade.

Workers' Ingenuity Improves Production

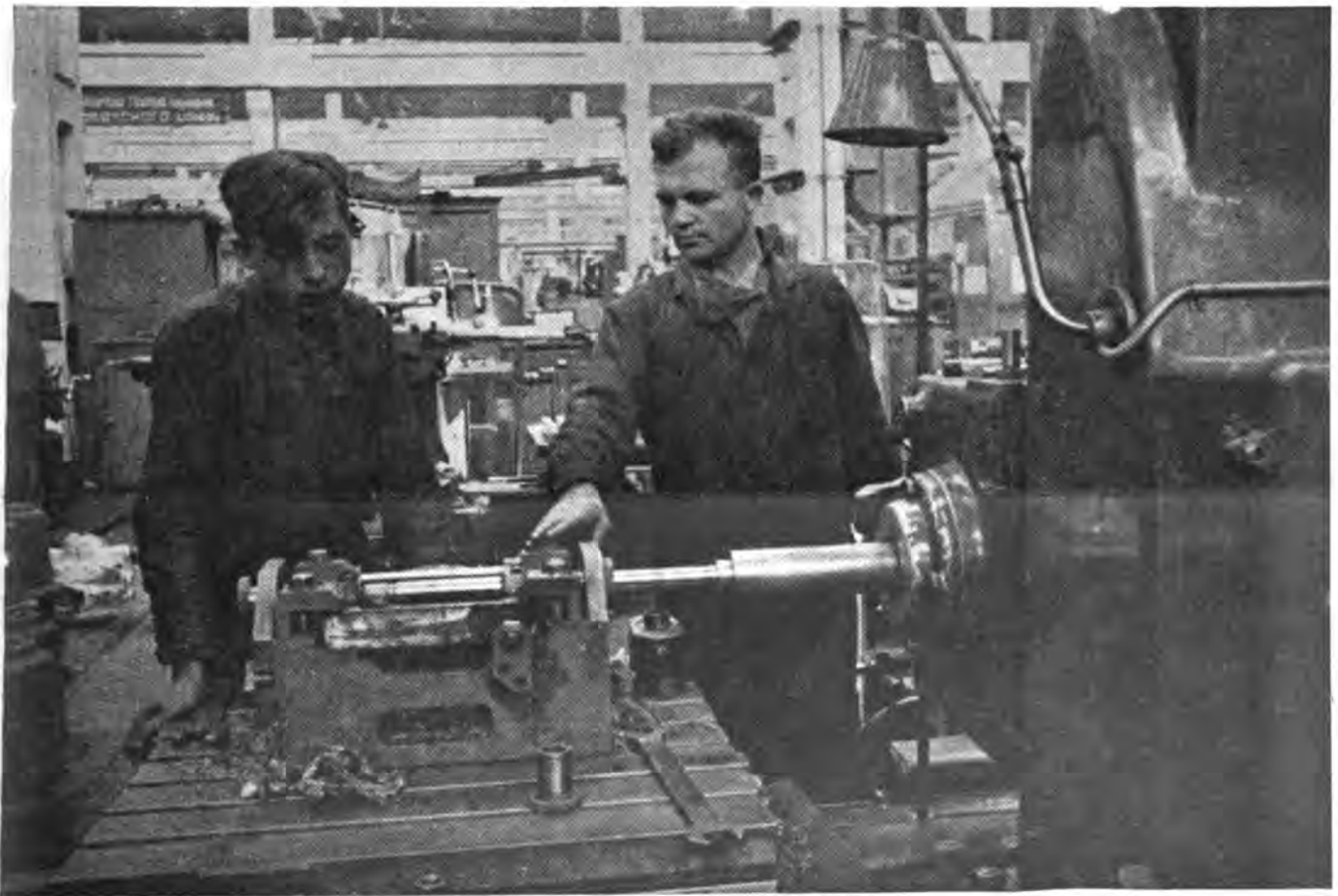
Such front-line brigades are to be found in the industry of all regions of the country. The work of the teams in the Kuibyshev Region were recently summed up. By March 10 there were 1,906 such brigades, each worker of which has learned several trades and operates several machine tools. As a result, they have released 1,400 highly-qualified work-

ers for other sections of industry where they were greatly needed.

This has been achieved chiefly because the members of the front-line brigades, while working strenuously, are continuing to perfect themselves and are studying diligently in various courses under the direction of foremen and engineers.

The aspiration to know more and more, so as to work still better, is the mainspring of creative thought, not only among engineers and designers, but also among the workers, from whom thousands of rationalization proposals for improving production processes are received. Such proposals are directed mainly toward performing the same work with a smaller number of workers.

Steadily and steadfastly the workers of Soviet industry continue to labor. They find the best reward for their toil in the victorious onward march of the Red Army and in the liberation of our towns and villages, which the Soviet troops are sweeping clean of the enemy.



Mechanic Seryegin, worker in a machine tool plant, teaches his trade to his younger brother

'The Boys Want to Smoke'

By Pyotr Pavlenko

When I was traveling through the Allaverdi hills, in Armenia, I stopped at the First of May collective farm in the remote village of Uzunlar. In winter this district is quite inaccessible. The radio is the only link between the mountain villages and the outside world.

On the outskirts of Uzunlar an enormous placard confronted me. It read: "The boys want to smoke." The same statement appeared on the wall of the village Soviet buildings.

Sarkis Chabanyan, the chairman of the collective farm, was expecting me. The moment I entered his house I noticed a black box containing tobacco on his table. This box also bore the legend: "The boys want to smoke."

Sarkis Chabanyan told me the farm was doing wonderfully. This year its income had exceeded over 1,200,000 rubles. The grain area had been increased by 375 acres—and this at a time when 500 men had left the farm to join the Red Army.

"Women are a great power. There's no doubt about it," Chabanyan informed me, speaking very solemnly. "We have women shepherds and women plowmen and women cheesemakers. I'd never have believed that women would make good shepherds in our mountains, among the wolves, gales and blizzards. But we find they're fully up to the job. In fact, our flocks have never been in finer condition or increased so fast.

"Take tobacco," Chabanyan continued. "Before the war we never grew tobacco in these parts. But when our boys at the front began to write asking for tobacco, we began thinking. One of our collective farmers, Sarkis Davtyan—his two sons are in the army—suggested that every house have a box marked 'The boys want to smoke,' and that each one of our smokers throw in a pinch or two every day. That would be economy for the front. The idea caught on."

At this point, the chairman pulled out his pouch, and sure enough, before he filled his pipe he dropped several pinches of tobacco into the box on the table. "Everybody smokes the same tobacco here, so there's no risk of getting a bad blend," he continued. "All the same, Davtyan's idea didn't solve the problem. Then two of the girls, Varya Davtyan and Zaira Maimlyan, suggested we plant several acres of tobacco. We tried it.

"The tobacco turned out fine. This year we sold 24 tons to the Government and gave six tons to the Defense Fund. But even then the girls weren't satisfied. Mariam Bogucharyan planted several rows of tobacco on her allotment. One row she named for her husband, who is a sergeant in the Red Army, and another for his comrade in the same platoon. Then all the other women started planting tobacco. The schoolchildren planted a row named for General Rokossovsky and decided to send the entire yield to him. I dissuaded them. 'Our tobacco isn't bad,' I told them, 'but all the same, it's hardly fit for the General. We might disgrace ourselves, because we're new at tobacco-growing.'

"I persuaded the youngsters to grow their tobacco for the nearest hospital. They agreed only on condition that some sort of tobacco tax was introduced in the village. If, let's say, I go and visit a neighbor, it's my bounden duty to put a little tobacco in the box on his table, and the same when anybody comes to visit me. Well, we accepted their suggestion, and it brought in half a ton."

He was silent for a moment. Then he returned to his solemn musing on women. "They're a big power," he repeated, puffing at his pipe. "They've saved our collective farm. When the men get back from the front they'll have the surprise of their lives. They'll have to roll up their sleeves if they want to catch up with our women, and they'll have a lot to learn from them about farming."

'KTZ' Tractors by December

In November, 1943 the Kharkov tractor works turned out the first lot of spare parts for tractors operating in the fields of the liberated Ukraine. Resumption of manufacture of tractors with the famous "KTZ" trade mark is planned for December, 1944. Engineers and workers are still returning from the eastern regions. Hundreds of new workers, including many collective farmers and housewives, are being trained for jobs in the plant.

Branch of Maly Theater Opens

An important event in Moscow theatrical life was the recent reopening of a branch of the Maly Theater. The Maly is the oldest theater in Russia.

All Moscow theaters have returned from the cities to which they were evacuated during the enemy threat to the Capital. The public is now seeing productions first staged outside of Moscow, where the theaters continued their activities full time.

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The Road to Sevastopol

By Leonid Sobolev

A few days ago I was in liberated Odessa. Today another heroic city lies ahead of me—glorious Sevastopol. The tunics of the Red Army officers and men here at the observation post are decorated with the medal "For the Defense of Stalingrad." The divisions conducting the offensive at this point are Stalingrad divisions. After a vigorous march through the Crimea they have reached the scene of the immortal defense of Sevastopol.

The Stalingrad will to victory helped our troops

carry out the operation which smashed through the gateway to the Crimea—an operation classic in conception and brilliant in execution. For a long time these men bore indescribable privations; they were out in the open steppe, practically without cover, preparing for the assault on the Crimea.

It must be left to military historians to describe the break-through in all its details. Today, within sight of Sevastopol, I want to talk about one phase of this epic: the work of the Stalingrad sappers.



A Soviet anti-tank rifle unit commanded by Sergeant Vasili Golovkov advances to a new position

The Germans, in the course of two years, had transformed the Isthmus of Perekop into an impregnable system of engineering works. But the troops of Lieutenant General Kreiser found a different road—two and one-half kilometers of viscous mud covered by a thin layer of bitter salt water—the Sivash Sea, otherwise known as the “putrid sea.” The Stalingrad sappers forced the icy waters of the Sivash and established a small bridgehead in the lake area of the Northern Crimea. Only the infantry could cross here; guns and tanks stuck in the mud and the horses refused to enter the water because the brine cut their legs.

Then began a long and incredible feat by the Stalingrad sappers commanded by Major General of Engineers Bazhenov. For two days on end, sappers in pontoons and specially constructed “sleds” literally dragged guns, mortars and ammunition through the thick mud, wading up to their knees in the water. They then tied the legs of the horses together, placed the animals on the sleds and dragged them to the “little land,” as the bridgehead was called.

The skin of the men's legs cracked and split from the cold and the bitter water of the “putrid sea,” but there was no time to wait until special clothes arrived. It was necessary to prepare the bridgehead for the coming offensive without delay.

The troops assigned to hold the bridgehead were ferried across the Sivash Sea. But tanks and heavy guns were also needed for the assault on the Crimea. The sappers therefore began to build a bridge across the Sivash. If this colossal task had been undertaken in peacetime, the entire country would have heard about it and the men who built the bridge would have been objects of universal admiration and respect. The work was complicated by continuous aerial bombing and artillery bombardment.

Finally the bridge was almost completed. In another day or two the heavy guns would be passing over it into the Crimea. Then a storm broke and raged with a violence the shallow and inoffensive “putrid sea” had rarely known. The waves hammered at the bridge until it was shattered. The work of the heroic sappers was destroyed by the elements.

The men of Stalingrad started again from the beginning. They toiled day and night, standing for long hours in the icy water. When they emerged there was nothing but a bonfire to warm and dry them. But at last the bridge was ready. Tanks and heavy guns began to move across it; others were ferried over on pontoons.

Then, just as the blow was about to be struck, the elements broke loose again. This time it was a snowstorm accompanied by an icy wind. Trenches were filled with thick layers of dry snow, and the men had all they could do to dig themselves out.

Finally the assault commenced. Our guns opened fire and the tanks sped forward to force the enemy defenses. And again the sappers moved ahead of the troops, clearing lanes through the minefields and wire entanglements. The Army broke through to the Crimea.

The Germans had not expected the maneuver carried out by our troops. They were confident of the impregnability of their defenses in the Perekop Isthmus and on the shores of the Sivash. But they had overlooked one weak spot, and it was at this spot that our tanks dashed at them from the “little land.”

The assault had been so carefully prepared and so swiftly carried out, the enemy had no time to saturate with troops and artillery the defensive works he had prepared all over the Crimea. Lieutenant General Kreiser's army took Dzhankoi on the run, and simultaneously Lieutenant General Zakharov's Guardsmen broke into the Crimea through the Isthmus. The German troops holding Perekop and the shores of the Sivash were overwhelmed and annihilated or taken prisoner.

Our troops marched swiftly on to Evpatoria and Sevastopol. Again the sappers moved ahead, clearing the road for the Stalingrad heroes. They removed over 10,000 mines from the roads leading to Sevastopol and built dozens of bridges across the rivers for tanks and guns.

Now Sevastopol lies before us. We can see the positions of the Germans' last defense. They are putting up frantic resistance. They have massed in Sevastopol all the artillery and anti-aircraft guns they managed to save in their flight from Perekop and the Sivash.

One's feelings as one gazes at the city of glory from the familiar heights are indescribable. Its hour of liberation is at hand. The sailors of the Black Sea Fleet will always cherish the memory of the Stalingrad sappers who laid a bridge of victory across the Sivash.

Civilians Clear German Mines

Every town and district council of the Air and Chemical Defense Society in the liberated areas has formed groups for clearing mines and collecting German arms and war materiel. The groups consist of volunteers who must be over 15 years of age, and take a special course without leaving their jobs.

The regional councils of the Society are starting one-month courses to train instructors of district groups, and have set aside money for prizes for outstanding work.

STRUGGLE OF PEOPLES OF THE BALTIC COUNTRIES AGAINST THE GERMAN INVADERS

By Justas Paleckis

Ever since the 12th Century the Baltic countries have been areas of constant struggle. Bloody wars have been fought for their possession. In 1189 the west wind brought to the mouth of the Western Dvina a ship carrying the first Germans—merchants and monks. They were scouts, who were followed by open robbers and enslavers.

Before the trustful Livs and Letts knew what was happening, they found the hand they had extended in friendship squeezed by the iron glove of the German Knights. It became apparent that the merchants and monks bristled with swords and spears.

The "fuehrer" of the German invaders of that time, Bishop Albert, astutely applied the principle of "divide and rule." He soon established himself in the lands of the Livs and Latgalians. The Estonians resisted for about 20 years; the Kurs carried on the

struggle for 60 years; the Zemgalians defended their liberty for a hundred years. But in the end the Germans succeeded in subjugating these tribes, because they were divided.

For 700 years the German invaders oppressed the Letts and Estonians. The Livonian Order collapsed, and Denmark and the Polish-Lithuanian state came into possession of the Baltic countries. They in turn were succeeded by Sweden. But always the German barons, the German landlords, remained masters. Even when the Baltic countries belonged to Russia, it was the same German barons who held sway there. In 1919, for example, 1,300 families of German landlords owned 48 per cent of all the land, while the 190,000 Lettish peasants owned only 39 per cent.

But the Germans did not always enjoy their domination in peace. "I'll forgive anyone, but I won't



Viru Street in Tallinn, capital of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic — before the German invasion

forgive a German," runs a Lettish song. Throughout the entire history of Latvia and Estonia runs a red thread of peasant uprisings and rebellions. The names of the leaders who headed the struggle against the German intruders—Lembitu and Tazui among the Estonian people, and Vesturi and Kamei among the Lettish people—are revered as heroes.

Particularly formidable was the "St. George's Night" uprising, which spread to almost all of Estonia in 1343-45. After treacherously deceiving and slaying the Estonian leaders, the Germans put down the rising, then meted out savage punishment to the insurgent Estonians in districts which had been centers of the rebellion. In the Herin district alone they slew about 30,000 people.

A series of peasant uprisings and rebellions took place in Latvia in the 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries. The peasants rose to fight the German landlords in 1777, 1784, 1822, 1823, 1841 and 1850. During the Revolution of 1905, German estates and castles, those nests of enslavement, were ablaze in Latvia and Estonia. When reaction triumphed in Tsarist Russia, the German barons took cruel revenge upon the insurgents.

Despite the long years of their rule, the German invaders could not destroy the Letts and Estonians as nations. Through the centuries Letts and Estonians maintained their language and national culture alive and intact; this was the result of the struggle waged by the Baltic peoples. It was also due to the fact that the Germans—although they were actual masters in the Baltic countries—had lost state power in those countries and could not pursue to the end the policy of Germanization carried out with regard to the Slavs and Lithuanians.

The destiny of the Lithuanian people took its own particular course. On the pretext of spreading Christianity, the Germans invaded the lands of the Lithuanian tribe of Borussians and the western part of Lithuania, known as Little Lithuania. This was the beginning of a struggle which lasted 200 years. Danger brought the Lithuanian tribes together, and under the leadership of the great Prince Mindaugas, Lithuania became a strong state. She not only repulsed the raids of the German Knights, as in the battle of Saule in 1236, when the Crusaders, in the words of a Livonian rhymed chronicle, were "cut down like women," but herself retaliated with raids on the lands of the Livonian Order.

In 1260 the Lithuanians, together with the Lett tribes, inflicted another crushing defeat on the Germans near Lake Durba. An immediate result of the battle of Durba was an uprising of the Borussians of East Prussia in 1261, which lasted 14 years. The Borussians were subsequently exterminated and on their bones the Germans built their own Prussia, which became the nucleus of Germany.

The Lithuanian people never submitted to the Teutonic Knights. If a Lithuanian was unable to annihilate the enemy, he preferred death to the shame of slavery. Thus acted the defenders of Puna Castle, headed by Prince Margiris, who burned their property and themselves mounted the stake rather than surrender to the Germans. There is a legend about Princess Gražine: when she saw that her husband, the Prince, hesitated to fight the Crusaders, she herself led the troops and routed the enemy.

In those times, as today, the Lithuanians waged this struggle against the German invaders side by side with the Russian people. Prince Mindaugas made an alliance with Alexander Nevsky, who routed the Germans on the ice of Lake Peipus in 1242. Often the Lithuanian and Russian princes launched joint campaigns against the Crusaders. One of the most glorious pages in the history of the Lithuanian people is the battle of Grunwald in 1410. This battle served as an object lesson, proving that the Germans were powerless when faced by united forces. In the battle of Grunwald, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Czech regiments, led by the Lithuanian Grand Prince Vitovt, routed the Knights Crusaders. The defeat of the Germans at Grunwald checked their advance to the east.

After the battle of Grunwald, the immediate German peril passed, as far as Lithuania was concerned. But the 200 years of Lithuanian struggle against the Crusaders took a toll of a million men. Lithuania lost a considerable part of her territory in the west. As a result of the struggle against the German invaders, Lithuania was weakened, and this was an indirect cause of her subsequent loss of state independence.

German Invasion of Baltic Countries During and After World War I

In the First World War the Germans seized Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, where they prepared to install themselves permanently. With Ludendorff at their head, the Germans calculated how many millions of Germans they would settle there. They intended, for example, to colonize Latvia with a view to the Germans forming four-fifths of the population.

In 1917 the ruler of Kurland, Gosler, wrote in a letter to the German minister of agriculture: "Kurland is an ideal country for colonization. If we settled about 50,000 German families here, the Lettish peasants would disappear; a small nation like the Letts, whose number does not exceed some one and one-quarter millions, would be in no position to offer any resistance."

German barons, landlords, rich farmers, large manufacturers, merchants and home owners formed



In a forest clearing at the front, the Lithuanian State Art Ensemble gives a performance for Lithuanian Units in the Red Army

the "regional assemblies" of Kurland, Livland and Estland, to which for the sake of appearance they admitted a few Lettish and Estonian Black Hundred members. In April, 1918 these sinister shadows of the past voted a resolution to petition the German government to set up a constitutional Baltic monarchy, with the Prussian king at its head. Still earlier, in December, 1917, Germany invoked the Tariba (Council), which adopted a declaration setting up a Lithuanian state under German protectorate. In July, 1918 the Lithuanian Tariba elected the German Prince Wilhelm, Count of Wurtemberg, as king of Lithuania.

The Kaiser's Germany suffered defeat, and with it collapsed the plans of the German robbers. Instead of German monarchies, the Lithuanians, Letts and Estonians set about forming Soviet Republics. But the Germans continued to cling to the Baltic countries, hoping to rescue anything possible. On the pretext of fighting Bolshevism, the Germans made

another attempt to establish themselves in the Baltic countries. This German policy was put into effect by General von der Goltz, who crushed the revolution in Finland. With the assistance of the Germans, nationalistic governments were set up in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. These governments had no support whatever among the masses, and relied entirely on the German bayonets which had been instrumental in crushing Soviet power in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The Germans did not succeed in gaining a hold on the Baltic countries. But the result of their intrigues and ventures was that the Baltic countries were wrested from Russia, and "independent," weak and divided republics were set up in them.

Germany left no stone unturned to extend her influence in these republics. For a long time Lithuania was virtually Germany's economic vassal. Her trade with Germany made up 50 to 80 per cent of her

total foreign trade; she was honeycombed with German commercial firms and agents. A policy of open provocation was pursued by the Germans in Klaipeda. They did everything to maintain their influence over this district and to carry out the policy of Germanization there. The Klaipeda district became a revolver pointed by Germany at Lithuania.

This aggressive policy became particularly brazen before Hitler's accession to power. In 1934 an organization was disclosed which had prepared for the secession of the district from Lithuania. In the same year, the extreme fascist Valldemaras group made an attempt to seize power in Kaunas. The threads of the conspiracy then led to the German legation. In March, 1939 Hitlerite Germany seized Klaipeda from Lithuania, depriving the latter of her sole port.

In Latvia and Estonia, German capital was in full control. Many political leaders of the Baltic countries were shareholders in German companies. General Laidoner, for example, who was one of the leading figures of Estonia, was a stockholder of the German Schela Bank, one of the largest in Estonia, and the Kive-Elli Company, also a German concern, the second largest of Estonia's shale industry. By these means the Germans exercised control over the political life of the Baltic countries. Many important government posts were held by local Germans, who always acted as agents of Germany. For example, the Baltic-German Munters for many years held the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia.

After the fascist coups in Latvia and Estonia (1934) and in Lithuania (1936), the rulers of these countries began to copy Hitler and his ways.

The German Invaders of Today

In 1939 Hitler attempted to seize the Baltic countries as a base for an attack upon the Soviet Union. The Lithuanian-fascist ex-diplomats raised the curtain on these events, which reveal that Skirpa, the Lithuanian ambassador in Berlin, arranged a meeting in Zopote, near Danzig, between Ribbentrop and representatives of the Lithuanian-fascist government, at which occupation of Lithuania by the Hitlerites was discussed. Analogous negotiations were conducted between representatives of Hitler Germany and the governments of Estonia and Latvia.

These machinations were disclosed by the Soviet Government which, striving to prevent the Hitlerites from seizing the Baltic countries, concluded pacts for mutual assistance with the latter and established garrisons in the Baltic Republics.

But the Hitlerites were not to be cut off; they continued to weave their intrigues. The fascist governments of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were preparing to betray their countries to Germany. In the summer of 1940 the Hitlerites concentrated 80,000

storm troopers on the Lithuanian frontier, disguised as "tourists," and also 200 aircraft. This was a step in the preparation for invasion of the Baltic Republics.

But these attempts were likewise foiled and the treacherous policy of the ruling fascist cliques exposed. The peoples of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia overthrew fascism and proclaimed Soviet power, thus saving themselves from the ignominious fate of Finland, Hungary, Rumania and other vassals of Germany.

As we know, after the failure of these attempts, all Germans in the Baltic countries were repatriated to Germany in 1939-41, on Hitler's orders. In all, about 160,000 persons were repatriated, including not a few Baltic reactionaries and fascists who proved their German origin or who were related to Germans. It subsequently transpired that this repatriation was only a feint and was really part of the preparation for war. In this way Hitler acquired a large army of people acquainted with conditions not only in the Baltic countries but also in Russia, and who knew the languages. They rendered Hitler no unimportant service as sabotage agents, spies, guides for German troops, interpreters, etc.

With the help of their ramified organization of secret agents, the Hitlerites even before the war carried on extensive subversive, sabotage and espionage activities in the Baltic countries. German agents arrested were found in possession of guns, grenades, dynamite and secret instructions. When one of the espionage centers in Vilnius was discovered, German agents who had crossed the frontier and were recruiting bands of saboteurs from among elements hostile to Soviet government, were arrested. In the Saulai district in Lithuania German agents were discovered making preparations for the landing of airborne troops. Other German agents acted similarly in Latvia and Estonia.

Struggle of Baltic Peoples Against Germans

The peoples of the Baltic countries have been waging a bitter struggle against the invaders from the first days of the Patriotic War. In an article entitled "The Last Warning," recently printed in a special publication, the Germans say: "We trusted that the appeal for collaboration and help in the struggle against Bolshevism would bring a satisfactory response. The actual results, however, testify to the contrary."

According to a report in the *Wilnaer Zeitung*, a German colonist openly stated in a speech at a conference of German colonists, "We colonists always face danger. The German farmer in Lithuania holds a spade in one hand and a rifle in the other. He must always be prepared to repel attacks with arms."

The German colonists met with determined resistance from the Lithuanian peasants in Suvalki. "We won't let the German blood-suckers strike roots in our land! Destroy the colonists, burn their farms!"—this was the slogan of the Suvalki peasants, and they put it into effect. They have driven many German colonists from the land and set fire to their farms. The anger of the peasants compelled the Germans to stop further colonization in Suvalki.

The peasants of the Baltic countries are persistently disrupting deliveries of produce to the invaders. The Hitlerite commissar Renteln howls, "Anyone who refuses to make deliveries, anyone who refuses to surrender his crop, is a saboteur, profiteer and Bolshevik accomplice and deserves to be treated as an enemy at the front; he must be destroyed."

Nor are these just threats. Tens of thousands of peasants who have failed to make deliveries have been evicted from their farms, deported to Germany or confined in prisons and concentration camps. In the Ukmerge district in Lithuania, during one month of 1943, more than 200 peasants were sentenced to from three to five years penal servitude for failing to deliver horses at requisitioning points. Three cases are on record of peasants being shot for failing to make deliveries. Despite threats and terror, the peasants sabotage the deliveries.

On July 25, 1943, certain Hitlerites shouted hysterically over the Kaunas radio, "An end must be put to a situation in which peasants, as soon as they catch sight of an official, run away to the woods, taking their cows with them." Today the Hitlerites complain that milk deliveries have been carried out only by 50 per cent.

Open anti-German demonstrations of protest against the conscription of Lithuanian youths for the transport services were held in Kaunas and Mariampole. The occupationists dispersed the demonstrations with machine-gun fire. The universal hatred of the people for the Germans gives rise to ever new forms of struggle among the masses. A widespread network of anti-fascist committees in towns and villages organize the struggle against the German invaders, carry on agitation against them and their measures, publish and disseminate illegal literature and help those seeking to escape the Hitlerite drafts or deportation to Germany, as well as those who have escaped from war-prisoners' camps. In these committees are united people from all walks of life.

Resistance to deportation to Germany is particularly strong. All registrations and drafts are boycotted. Roundups as a rule yield no results, because most of the people seized manage to escape en route. In March, 1943, Lithuanians being deported to Germany mutinied at the railroad station in Kaunas and most of them got away. When the Germans began a roundup of churchgoers, many priests in Lithuania

advised their congregations to refrain from attending church.

German attempts to enlist local populations in the German army are also meeting with determined resistance. In the spring of 1943 the Germans launched a big campaign to form SS Legions from the Baltic peoples. Volunteers were promised all sorts of privileges. In Lithuania these attempts failed completely. In the entire Svenciany district, for example, the Germans found only three scoundrels or idiots to enlist in the Legion. Nor could they find many more in other districts. They then released common criminals from prisons on condition they enlist in the Legion. Altogether, about 150 consented, but even they fled as soon as they were at liberty.

The Hitlerites later issued a special statement that owing to the resistance of Lithuanians, and propaganda on the part of the intelligentsia, the formation of a Legion of Lithuanians was suspended. In reprisal, all universities were ordered closed, wholesale arrests made among the Lithuanian intelligentsia, and the terror against the workers and peasants intensified. The Hitlerites made no more attempts to enlist Lithuanians into active units of the German army.

Recently the occupation authorities announced a mobilization in Estonia and Latvia. The Estonians and Letts are evading the draft by every possible means. Many are in hiding in the forests. Most of those impressed into the German army take the first opportunity to come over to the Red Army.

A statement made by Peteris Peterson, a private in the Third Company, 34th German Grenadiers, who with 12 other conscripted Letts came over to the Red Army in February, 1944, reads: "I was drafted on December 24, 1943. I was made to sign an application to the effect that I was volunteering for the Lettish SS Legion. My father was a former officer and captain in the Latvian army. Under Soviet power he served in the Territorial Corps, and in 1941, at the age of 59, was retired on a pension of 800 rubles monthly. When the Germans organized their so-called Volunteer Legion, they asked my father to join, but he refused. In the summer of 1943 my father was arrested and confined in the Salaspil concentration camp."

The enslaved workers of the Baltic countries, although under constant surveillance by Gestapo spies, find means to sabotage work for the German invaders. Some Lettish workers even managed to remove eight truckloads of armaments from the Riga arsenal. German newspapers reported the shooting of a Lithuanian worker, Gaudaitis, in Vilnius, for putting several German motorcars out of commission. Neither floggings, imprisonment nor executions can break the will of the workers of the Baltic countries, who are continuing the glorious traditions of struggle against the invaders.

Notes from Front and Rear

Twenty-three thousand Soviet citizens have been saved from German slavery by 20-year-old Vladimir Yegorov and his guerrilla detachment operating in the Leningrad Region. When the war broke out, Yegorov was preparing to enter a university. The Germans occupied his native village and he fled to the forest, where he joined the guerrillas. In his first operation he displayed such skill and daring he soon commanded a detachment and became known as a master of lightning raids. When the Red Army offensive opened on the Leningrad Front, his group blew up numerous railway bridges and stopped trains carrying Soviet citizens to slavery. Yegorov's detachment was awarded a Banner of Honor. Under this banner the youthful commander recently led his detachment into Leningrad, where it was warmly welcomed.

★

The river workers of the Dnieper have challenged those of the Don to socialist competition. Hundreds of boats have been raised from the bottom of the rivers, and wharves and equipment are being put in good shape for the spring navigation season.

★

Ten teams of scientific workers recently left for the Soviet countryside to give practical aid to collective farmers in the spring sowing. The Kazakh branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR has become patron of the farms of the Alma-Ata Region. The scientists arranged 20 meetings with farmers of that region, and are also publishing a daily news bulletin for the field camps. In the Karaganda Region, scientists have developed the cultivation of berry and vegetable crops in the desert and have introduced the cultivation of Academician Tsitsin's perennial wheat and couch-grass hybrids.

★

Mussulmen of the Kazan Mosque have collected 100,000 rubles for the Special Defense Fund of the Supreme Command of the Red Army.

★

Soviet sniper Alexander Govorukhin has killed 393 Hitlerites with a little over 400 bullets. Govorukhin recently won a shooting match on the Leningrad Front, in which all contestants were famous snipers. He has received the Orders of the Red Star and the Red Banner, and the "For Valor" and "For the Defense of Leningrad Medals."

The Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has promoted Lieutenant General Mikhail Katukov to the rank of Colonel General of Tank Troops, and Vice Admiral Filip Oktyabrysky to the rank of Admiral.

★

A report on the esthetic views of Walt Whitman by Morris O. Mendelson, Soviet scholar and author of a biography of Mark Twain, was the highlight of a recent meeting of the Western Department of the Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow. Mendelson discussed the poet's little-studied critical essays, among them those on Shakespeare and Burns, and gave detailed consideration to Whitman's poetical works, pointing out the connection between his esthetic views and his outlook on life, particularly his attitude toward social changes in the United States of his day.

★

On June 22, 1941, the Kiev Dynamo soccer team was scheduled to play the Moscow Dynamo eleven at the Khrushchev Stadium in the Ukrainian capital. On that day the first German bombs fell on Soviet soil. The sports societies of Kiev have announced that the delayed game will be played on May 1, 1942—heading a holiday program of soccer, wrestling, gymnastics and other sports.

★

The workers of the Dniepropetrovsk Region report that the pride of the southern iron and steel industry—the Dzerzhinsky plant—is already smelting metal. A number of other plants, including the Petrovsky and Lenin works, will soon begin production. In this Region nearly all collective and State farms and the machine and tractor stations have been restored, over 100,000 collective farmers' cottages and public buildings repaired and over 2,300 dairy and poultry farms, with tens of thousands of heads of cattle and poultry, established. In addition, some 1,000 schools, nine higher educational institutes, five theaters, and hundreds of clubs, libraries and other cultural centers have been opened.

★

Professor Ludmila Pavlovna Milutna has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor for her services in organizing the teaching of French in the USSR.

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TRAVEL NOTES FROM MOLDAVIA — PART II

By Valentin Katayev

Part I of TRAVEL NOTES FROM MOLDAVIA appeared in Information Bulletin No. 50, April 27, 1944.

I stopped at a clean, cool Moldavian cottage with a clay floor carpeted with brightly-striped hand-woven matting. The master of the house came in at dusk; a powerfully built elderly man with close-cropped hair and a firm chin. Carefully, with his large rough hands, he set the table with a clean un-

bleached linen cloth bordered in green, brought a bowl of steaming yellow corn mush, another of sheep curd-cheese, a pitcher and two pint mugs.

"Would you care to try our Moldavian porridge and drink some Bessarabian wine from my vineyard?" he asked, choosing his Russian words carefully. Evidently he had at one time spoken Russian quite well, but had forgotten it and was searching his memory for words.



Aslan Mamurov, an Uzbek Red Army man, beside his self-propelled gun. In one action, Mamurov crushed nine German anti-tank guns under the treads of his machine

I thanked him and invited him to sit down to supper with me. In accordance with the Moldavian custom, we each took some porridge, dipped it into the salt cheese and washed it down with the rose-colored, fragrant wine. Afterward I took out my tobacco and offered it to him. He rolled a cigarette and drew on it with great satisfaction.

"It's a long time since I've smoked such good tobacco," he said. I expressed my surprise. "You grow wonderful tobacco in Moldavia," I insisted.

"Here? God help you if you sowed tobacco here! It was strictly forbidden. The Rumanians inflicted a fine for every tobacco plant and put the growers in prison. They have a monopoly. You could buy tobacco in a shop, but you dared not grow it yourself. And how were you to buy it in the shops? We had no money. Ever since the Germans and Rumanians came, three years ago, we only have what we can make for ourselves. We've been poverty-stricken. There's no salt, there are no matches—there are no materials of any kind. Look!"

With a big hand like a spade, the hand of a tiller of the soil, he indicated the clothes he was wearing.

"Everything is home-made. Rawhide boots sewn with leather thongs, homespun trousers and coat. That's how we live."

He plied me with eager questions about the position at the fronts, life in the Soviet Union, the Red Army and the Allies. He hung on my words, cupping his ear and wrinkling his brow as he strove not to miss a single detail. I told him about Stalingrad and the German defeat at Korsun-Shevchenkivsky, about the abandoned enemy materiel, about what happened at Lvov. All this was news to him. He had heard nothing. He kept shaking his head and making deprecating sounds with his lips. "Just imagine," he said, "we didn't know anything about it." He had lowered his voice and glanced involuntarily at the door. He caught himself doing this and suddenly his face broke into a broad, trusting smile.

"There, you see," he said, "I'm talking to you—and yet I go all a-tremble every now and again. I keep thinking someone is spying on me and that the police will come. Oh, if you knew how we lived here! Well, I hope it will all be different now; I hope we'll see the light again; that we'll live as freely as we did in the days when our Red Army came the first time."

* * *

The day has been warm. The evening was cool and foggy; snows were melting in the Carpathians and the chill springtime breath was wafted from them. The moon was misty too, and faintly green.

A single star, transparent and pure as an icy tear, shone above the reed-thatched roof and the silhouettes of two storks motionless over their big nest.

I made my way through a narrow corridor, a street between two high walls made of large bricks—earth and straw coated with clay. Voices and a half-stifled laugh reached my ears from behind a garden fence, where a whitewashed cottage glowed with a phosphorescent sparkle in the moonlight. Young men in white sleeveless jackets and tall black caps, and girls in gray coats and kerchiefs were talking.

From whence had these young men come so quietly? I had met no one of military age when I passed through the village in the daytime. I found they had been driven away by the Rumanians, but at the first opportunity they escaped and returned to their homes. With the girls they sang couplets in an undertone . . . melodies they had brought from the Ukraine, pronouncing them with a strong Moldavian accent.

Soviet night bombers passed over the village en route to Jassy, to Constanza . . . going to root out as quickly as possible the Hitlerite contagion.

* * *

I lower the transparent hood and fasten it down. I am sitting deep down and very comfortably, on a broad tarpaulin strap stretched between the sides of an attack plane, opposite a machine gun turned backward. From here I can see the plane's tail antenna and a piece of blue sky. Far below the brown and green fields, vineyards, gullies and rivers spread in a broad fan. The plane's blue tail with the Red Star and number rises still higher. Now the white ribbons of roads branch out on every side. The ground seems nearly dry here; the first filmy dust wreathes along the highway, raised by a column of Soviet tanks. We sweep over it; then another swirl of dust is visible . . . this time it is a truck column carrying shells, oil and provisions. An infantry battalion passes, marching to the west. Trains, trench-mortar units and baggage trains are raising more dust.

A glimpse of Beltsi, with its tiled and thatched roofs; the station . . . trains standing on the sidings. A garden and a tiny shell-shaped open stage . . . then the glitter of a river.

We are flying westward. Another 10 or 15 minutes and a river winds and loops below. Hazy in the sunshine, its green merges in the yellow of the reeds. This is the Prut. A gleam, a flash and it is gone. The tail of the IL drops, the plane climbs and turns. Faint on the far horizon the smoke-blue range of the Carpathians is visible. The land rises in a wall . . . and along the edge of that wall roll dense clouds of smoke.

RULERS OF THE CRIMEAN SKIES

By El Registan

Soviet fliers achieved superiority in the air during the winter, long before the beginning of the offensive in the Crimea. Fighter pilots covered the narrow strips of the Sivash crossing, smashing all efforts of the Luftwaffe to bomb our concentrations of manpower and materiel.

From the first moment of the Red Army advance on the Peninsula, the might of our flying units filled the heart of each rank and file flier and officer with admiration and pride. The Ilyushin attack planes rotated with bomber formations in endless waves, and tons of death-carrying missiles were showered on the German fortifications, troops and artillery positions. Fighter plane squadrons patrolled the battlefield, covering the advance of our ground troops; they stormed the enemy airdromes and carried out "free hunting" flights throughout the Crimea to intercept the Nazi machines.

Soviet airmen completely ruled the blue skies over the Peninsula, and the controllers scattered all along the line of the front transmitted the commander's voice: "This is Condor One. Condor One calling! Stationed at Cliff Seven. Preparing work for you! Head south! Gather in group. Good job waiting for you in Square 384. This is Condor One. Radio O.K."

The fliers instantly responded to the commander's message, gave their call signals and sped toward the new sector to intercept the enemy.

When the German defenses were breached and our tanks poured through the gaps, the aviation commander sent his controllers and ground technicians along with them. While they were following a tank column on the Dzhankoi-Simferopol line, an urgent order came from the commander to prepare an airdrome for shock fighter squadrons in the depths of the Crimea. Three Soviet tanks discovered five JU-88's on an airfield, about to take off to join their partners who had got away earlier. The German bombers were destroyed by the tanks, and the technicians immediately prepared the field to receive the fighter machines.

Without a moment's delay, Major Novichkov and his sappers investigated the area and the equipment abandoned by the Germans. The panic-stricken enemy had left behind hundreds of tons of fuel, a huge quantity of bombs, a garage filled with automobiles, and communications, service station and command post in perfect order. There were also good fliers' quarters, an ambulance and a host of other things.

I flew to this field with Chaika, in his U-2 training plane. Before we took off, the aviation comman-

der said, "I'm not saying goodbye to you because I'll be seeing you again very soon. I'll fly out there myself. By the way, when you approach the field, look around and see if you can find a Messerschmitt to the right of the railroad. That's my Messerschmitt—I got him day before yesterday."

Chaika flew his machine low over the liberated Crimean territory. The steppes were carpeted with bright green. Dzhankoi was behind us. Nearing the airfield I did spot the mangled remains of the Messerschmitt just where the commander said I would find it. It was his 16th victim, and had once formed part of the Udet Flight Squadron.

Majors Novichkov and Dobrovsky rushed out to greet us when we landed. Hardly had I shaken hands when a couple of high-speed planes roared over my head and circled around for landing. The General hopped out of a Yakovlev fighter, took a deep breath and flinging out his arms said, "You'll never know my feelings at this moment. I've been flying over this spot day and night."

The commander quickly went up to the sergeant on duty at the runway, and taking a flare gun fired a green rocket into the sky. A few moments later the air was humming with fighter planes. Sixteen Yakovlev machines had landed, when a youth with a weather-beaten face approached the commander to report.

"Comrade commander, Major Yerebin and this shock formation have flown here as ordered. The landing was normal." The commander ordered eight fliers to remain on duty in their cockpits and permitted the rest to inspect the surroundings. The fighter pilots walked across the green field and looked at the broken frames of the JU-88's piled up near the hangars and repair shops.

Meanwhile the U-2 training planes arrived like a swarm of mosquitoes. Formations of Douglas aircraft followed, bringing technicians, gunsmiths and radio operators. After reporting to the commander the men immediately set to work.

Near the hangars the fighter pilots were still examining the smashed German machines, recognizing "old acquaintances" among them. "That's my Focke-Wulf! Here's your Junkers! Remember?" Three voices shouted simultaneously, "Major Popov—Comrade Popov! Here's your 'cow'—the Savoia you spoke about."

They were all here: Rubakhin, Tarasov, Balashov, Manukyan, Ishkhanov, Abdurashitov, Konukoyev, and other famous fighter pilots, lively and cheerful fellows, ready for new air victories.

Spring Comes Again to Odessa

By Margarita Aliger

Margarita Aliger is a Soviet poet and winner of a Stalin Prize.

Like most maritime cities of the south, Odessa is lovely in spring and autumn. Spring comes with a bewildering suddenness, full of delightful surprises. The chestnut buds burst open overnight, the intoxicating fragrance of lilac bushes in full bloom fills the city; tulips scatter their brilliant petals and the acacias embrace you with their warm scent.

Odessa was the scene of my childhood, and the spring will always be associated with exams and the anxiety typical of schoolchildren everywhere. Then, imperceptibly, spring slips into torrid, dazzling summer.

Autumn comes with clear and bracing days. The sun is soft and gentle, moving across the sky with ponderous slowness; the sea lies still and transparent, as though preparing for coming storms. The bitter and penetrating odor of seaweed, reminiscent of iodine, is especially pungent in the evening, immediately distinguishable amid the odors of gardens and flowers. Enormous chrysanthemums, as brilliant in their diversity as asters and as soft and downy as carnations, fill the streets, squares and markets of the city.

Everything that has grown and ripened under the life-giving rays of the summer sun is gathered in the markets—and what the markets cannot hold is piled high in the streets: melons, huge baskets of plums, mounds of grapes and apples.

And we children of this city, bored with the summer—with what joy we returned to school, how eagerly we looked forward to meeting our friends and teachers. And the schools were ready to meet us, with their freshly-painted walls, shining desks and spotless blackboards. We entered our classrooms on the first day, full of anticipation and apprehension as we pulled out our new books and copybooks, so clean and festive-looking it seemed no ugly blot would ever soil their pages.

* * *

But the autumn that was to have seen a new school year begin, came with air raids instead. Thousands of children had waited for this autumn, prepared for it . . . the August of 1941 . . . a month that will live in our memories forever. The enemy came close to the city and halted. It had taken the Germans 37 days to conquer all of France. Odessa held out for 69 days.

The Germans attacked seven and eight times a day, supported by planes and artillery fire. Buildings of porous limestone crumbled and burned, but

the city went on living and working, refusing to surrender. And even when the struggle was at its fiercest, lively songs were composed and jokes made. The suburbs became a front, and the front line could be reached by streetcar. The water supply stations were in the hands of the Germans and the city was without drinking water. The people spent the night in quarries.

All this happened during the clear and bracing days of autumn, during the apple and grape harvest, when asters and carnations were in bloom, when the school year was about to begin.

Odessa held out against the fascists for 69 days, confounding all their plans and preventing them from developing their advance toward the Donets Basin, the Crimea and the Caucasus. On the 70th day the High Command ordered the defenders of the city to take up a new and difficult task—the defense of Sevastopol.

But both those who left and those who remained in the city in the terrible days that followed were firm in their belief that the day would come when the Red Army would again return to Odessa, when it would again become a free Soviet city. And now the day of liberation is here.

* * *

How splendid the city is! The enemy has damaged it, but it remains lovely. That wide, inviting avenue is Pushkin street—a hundred years ago the great Russian poet lived and wrote in this very street. The people of Odessa had taken loving care of his house, which had been converted into the Pushkin Museum. The Museum no longer exists and the house has been badly damaged. The palace that once belonged to Count Vorontsov, the Teacher's Club, the Pioneer Palace and many other lovely buildings in the city were destroyed.

But Odessa is still beautiful, and especially now, in the spring . . . the best time of the year in a southern maritime city. Spring is a little late this year, but the buds in the chestnut trees are about to burst, the lilacs and acacias are in flower, and the city is full of fragrance and color.

Spring has been a long time in coming to Odessa . . . it is the first since 1941.

Commemoration Stamps

The Soviet postal authorities are issuing a series of Rimski-Korsakov centenary stamps. The series is made up of four stamps: 30 and 60 kopeks and one and three rubles. The composer is depicted in the foreground against the Bolshoi Theater building.



Young naturalists of the Children's Club of the Stalin auto plant Palace of Culture in Moscow

Leading Soviet Parasitologist Honored

The Soviet Government has decorated Lieutenant General of the Medical Service Academician Eugene Pavlovsky with the Order of Lenin, on the occasion of his 60th birthday and in recognition of his fruitful scientific activity and outstanding work in the field of parasitology. The Order of Lenin is the third decoration conferred on Pavlovsky. He was the first Soviet scientist to work on the theory of carriers of disease. Since 1929 he has occupied the Chair of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at the Military Medical Academy, and has made a number of expeditions to Central Asia, the Caucasus, Crimea, Trans-Baikal and the Maritime Territory.

Pavlovsky, who is a biologist as well as a doctor, has made a number of outstanding discoveries, particularly in the field of taiga encephalitis. Several years ago settlers in the virgin forest districts of the Siberian Taiga caught an unknown disease affecting the tissues of the cerebrum and nervous system. Mortality was 25 per cent, and survivors were incapacitated. After persistent work in the taiga, Pavlovsky discovered the causative agent and elabo-

rated methods of combating it. For this work he was awarded a Stalin Prize in 1939.

Pavlovsky has also carried out extensive and fruitful work in combating typhoid and malaria. He has led a number of expeditions charged with the task of improving health conditions in newly-developed agricultural territory and on industrial construction sites in new areas. For many years he has headed the Department of Parasitology under the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine. He has also lectured at the Military Medical Academy in Leningrad, directed the work of the Tajik branch of the Academy of Sciences, and served on the editorial board of the *Journal of General Biology*.

During the war Pavlovsky has done a great deal of work on the study of the centers and the prophylactics of infectious disease in the Central Asiatic Soviet Republics and in neighboring countries. In 1942 and 1943 he headed three expeditions to Iran and Iraq. In 1943 he was elected an honorary member of the Iranian Academy of Sciences.

THE KUBAN TODAY

By Arkadi Perventsev

It was 20 degrees below zero when we left Moscow and 12 above when we landed at Krasnodar. Such is the difference in temperatures in our vast country. The Weather Bureau predicted cyclones rushing from somewhere in the Arctic Ocean across the central belt of the country and approaching the Kuban from the flanks. Cold weather set in. Warm air currents from the Black Sea melted the snow clouds somewhere beyond the Sea of Azov, but the strong wind hurried the low and heavy clouds toward the Kuban.

April is a critical month in the Kuban. Wheat and vegetables must be planted in April. May usually comes in clear, dry and heartless; it tolerates the planting of tobacco and rice, but all other crops must be sown in the previous month.

This year's sowing program in the Kuban calls for 1,600,000 hectares of summer corn. By the beginning of April only 249,300 hectares were sown, or 16 per cent of the plan, a low average. The Kuban farmers worked tirelessly every day and hour of clear weather. The crops must be in the ground by April 15. Could they do it? Yes. All tractors in the territory had been repaired in good time; everything was ready for plowing and sowing. The 111 machine and tractor stations had exceeded their repair schedules, a task which demanded tremendous effort and ingenuity, since the necessary parts were not always received in time. But the mechanics managed it—repairing crankshafts, ball-bearings, etc., with whatever could be found on the spot.

Soviet Government Supplies Seed

The Kuban farmers, plundered by the Germans, were unable to sow sufficient grain crops after their liberation last year. They were short of wheat, oat and barley seed. The State came to their aid, advancing them over 36 million pounds of seed from the State fund.

Deep mud where motors stalled and teams floundered did not halt the workers. The 36 million pounds of grain were carried from railway stations to the fields on the backs of the farmers. Some of the farms were dozens of kilometers from the railroad. It reminded one of the transporting of shells to our artillery positions in the days of the memorable storming of the Nazi "blue line" on the Taman Peninsula. Then the farmers carried the shells in their arms.

It is interesting to examine in detail one of the collective farms in the Kuban area, to see how the Kuban farmers are helping to win the war by their work in the fields. The Klim Voroshilov collective

farm lies on the bountiful plain near the Kochatakh, not far from where it falls to the Kirpili. Vasilii Ryabov, a young man with a pock-marked face and a tan remaining from the year before, when he fought with the guerrillas, is chairman of the collective farm. An agronomist who served both at the front and behind the enemy lines, he is now back on the farm.

This is the second sunny day here. Only yesterday the wagons sank to their hubs in the mud. The grass is bright green. The Chairman of the Village Soviet, with the Chairman of the District Executive Committee and others responsible for the harvest, pick their way along the edge of the road.

Spring Sowing Completed Ahead of Schedule

The Voroshilov collective farm numbers 540 able-bodied members living in 245 homes, and during the season of field work three camps are set up in the fields. The farm has 2,007 acres of rich soil, 24 hectares of orchards, mostly apple trees, and 1.5 hectares of vineyards. The spring sowing and planting were completed ahead of schedule. I mentioned the unfavorable weather conditions of this spring. The farmers admitted the weather had dealt a blow to their time-table but the Voroshilov farm and many others in the Kuban countered this by working at top speed every time the sun broke through the clouds. Occasionally, the chairman explained, the sun came out toward evening and the winds dried the fields. Then the tractors worked all night. . . .

The Voroshilov farm is now completing its spring program. The young farm girls sing in the sunlight. They have discarded their gray winter shawls for gaily-colored kerchiefs. The weather is warm and the Kuban fields are breathing freely and deeply. The sown area is steadily increasing and soon the Kuban will proudly report to the country that in this difficult, cold and rainy spring its agricultural districts remained true to their reputation as producers of fine quality wheat. Our country waits for the Kuban wheat, and will receive it, despite handicaps and hardships. The collective farmers of the Kuban voice their confidence in this.

Iron From Krivoi Rog

The Krivoi Rog basin has begun to supply the USSR with thousands of tons of high-grade ore. In addition, 170 enterprises of local industry and handicraft cooperatives have turned out goods to the value of eight and one-half million rubles.

Soviet Sports Review

By Eugene Petrovsky

The Moscow track team, which has been training in Sukhumi, Black Sea resort city, has returned to Moscow to participate in the traditional boulevard relay races on May 2. These races launch the annual track and field season in the Capital.

* * *

Over 300 sportsmen, including guests from Moscow, Leningrad, Yaroslavl, Archangelsk and Molotov, competed in the 10th Northern Sports Festival in Murmansk. Besides skiing events, the program included reindeer team races. One hundred reindeer teams took part in the five-kilometer event, the largest number ever entered in this race.

All the events were keenly contested. The title of Absolute Champion, awarded to the athlete who scored the highest total points in the long and short-distance ski races and jumps, went to Klementova-Borisova of Kirovsk, for the women, and to Lazarev of Leningrad, for men. The team title was won by a skier of the Northern Fleet.

* * *

In Kirov, where the vacation weather has recently been ideal for skiing, sportsmen ended the season with three and 10-kilometer events. Fofanov showed the best time of the season, finishing the 10-kilometer event in 40 minutes, 15 seconds.

* * *

The Pacific Fleet boxing championship meet in Vladivostok attracted 115 Navy contestants. Senior Sergeant Senkin of the Marines won the title of Absolute Champion of the Pacific Fleet. Senior Sergeant Stepin defeated all his lightweight opponents, while Lieutenant Pavlov helped the Marines to take team honors in the welterweight division.

* * *

Sportsmen of the Championship Locomotive Sports Club are restoring order in the Sports Palace at Kiev and have cleared the cinder tracks and sports halls at the Locomotive Stadium. Three soccer fields, 20 volley ball courts and four tennis courts will be ready for use this summer.

* * *

The nation's Spartak Sports Clubs of Rostov, Kirov, Baku, Moscow, Yaroslavl and Estonia recently held a swimming meet in the Soviet Capital. Semyon Boichenko, USSR breast-stroke champion, won the 100 and 200-meter breast-stroke races, finishing in one minute, 10 seconds, and two minutes, 46.2 seconds, respectively. Sokolova, Soviet record-holder, was first in the 100-meter breast-stroke for women, with one minute and 29.9 seconds. Sima Blokhina, high-diving champion of the USSR, easily retained her title in the high-diving event.



Alpinists of the Burevestnik Athletic Society scaling Mount Alatau in the Tian-Shan Mountains



Physical culture in Soviet schools. Girls "walking the beam"



Start of a men's swimming race

'Cultural Service Cars' at the Front

"Cultural service cars" are a familiar feature of life on the Soviet front. They are as a rule maintained at the expense of the front-line Red Army Clubs. The crew of each car includes the "manager"—usually a senior lieutenant or captain—a lecturer, cinema operator and driver.

The equipment consists of a traveling motion picture outfit, a varied stock of films, a victrola with a loudspeaker and a large selection of records. Folk songs are especially popular. One member of each crew is a skilled photographer who takes pictures of outstanding soldiers as the car tours the front-line zone, thus adding to the traveling exhibit.

Bad roads or shelling never deter the "cultural service cars." They visit battalions and even individual companies in the forward positions, where they are impatiently awaited. Films, lectures on the international situation, on home affairs or the situation at the front, are always sure of 100 per cent attendance. Some trucks carry two or three lecturers.

At all stops the chief of the car arranges a photo display and distributes leaflets, while the company librarians circulate books. The officers and men often find photographs of themselves or of someone well-known to them on display. They are naturally pleased by this, and it stimulates others to strive for similar distinction. At each stop officers and men who have distinguished themselves in action are photographed, and figure in the display at the next stopping place.

After spending a day or two with a regiment and serving all its detachments, the truck departs for a neighboring regiment. So it continues to travel, returning to its base from time to time for new material.

In one month the lecturer and chief of one car on the First Ukrainian Front delivered 64 lectures and talks, while the film operator gave 84 shows. On one occasion a sapper requested a victrola concert for his comrades, who were building a bridge nearby. The sappers said they were able to finish the job in half the usual time, thanks to the music.

MOSCOW LIKES MR. PICKWICK

After an interval of several years, the dramatized version of *Pickwick* has been revived at Russia's leading playhouse, the Moscow Art Theater. Naturally only a few of the adventures described in the novel could be shown on the stage. Masterly production and brilliant acting have preserved intact the atmosphere and spirit of Dickens' novel. His satire, his humanity, his humor are all here.

The Moscow theater-going public now consists largely of Red Army officers passing through the Capital on their way to the front, munitions workers and office employees. When the curtain first goes up on *Pickwick* there is some constraint. The actors do not at once establish contact with the audience.

Samuel Pickwick is splendidly played by Victor Stanitsyn. But the well-meaning and quaint hero with a paunch, the idyllic atmosphere, the prosperous gentlemen, seem too far removed from the grim, war-time problems that face the Moscow theater-goer of today. Step by step, however, Victor Stanitsyn wins the audience over. He reveals the true Pickwick.

"*Pickwick* will never submit to injustice," he says quietly, with great dignity. The audience, which has

been reserved, bursts into applause. It understands that in his heart the old fellow cherishes a desire for knowledge and virtue, a deep faith in mankind.

Soldiers and workers leave the theater kindly disposed to old-fashioned, quaint Mr. Pickwick, who could not have existed in our time, but who was a champion of justice.

ZONE NUMBERS

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STALIN'S ORDER OF THE DAY

MAY 1, 1944, NO. 70: MOSCOW

Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief:

Comrades Red Army and Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women guerrillas! Working people of the Soviet Union! Brothers and sisters who have temporarily fallen under the yoke of the German oppressors! You have been forcibly driven to the penal servitude in Germany!

On behalf of the Soviet Government and of our Bolshevik Party, I congratulate you upon this day!

Peoples of our country! The day of May First in the history of our outstanding successes of the Red Army. Since the defeat of the German divisions at Stalingrad, the Red Army has been conducting a practically incessant offensive. During this time the Red Army has made a fighting advance from the Volga to the Seret, the foothills of the Caucasus, the Carpathians, exterminating enemy vermin and sweeping it from the Soviet land.

At the course of the winter campaign of 1943-44 the Red Army won the historic battle for the Crimea and for the territories of Ukraine west of the Dnieper, and the powerful German fortified defenses at Sevastopol and in the Crimea, by skilful and vigorous attacks overwhelmed the German defense on the barriers of the Yuzhny Bug, the Dniester, the Seret. Nearly the entire Ukraine, Moldavia, the Crimea, the Leningrad and Kalinin Regions and a considerable part of Byelorussia, have been cleared of the German invaders.

At the metallurgy of the south, the ore of Krivoi Rog,

Kerch and Nikopol, the fertile lands between the Dnieper and the Prut, have been restored to the motherland. Tens of millions of Soviet people have been liberated from fascist slavery.

Acting in the great cause of the liberation of the native land from the fascist invaders, the Red Army emerged on our State frontiers with Rumania and Czechoslovakia and now continues battering the enemy troops on the territory of Rumania.



Marshal Joseph V. Stalin

The successes of the Red Army became possible due to the correct strategy and tactics of the Soviet Command, due to the high morale and offensive ardor of our men and commanders, due to our troops being well supplied with first-rate Soviet war equipment, due to the improved skill and training of our artillerymen, mortar gunners, tankmen, fliers, signalmen, sappers, infantrymen, cavalrymen and scouts.

A considerable contribution to these successes has been made by our great Allies, the United States of America and Great Britain, which hold a front in Italy against the Germans and divert a considerable part of the German troops from us, supply us with very valuable strategical raw materials and armaments, subject to systematic bombardments military objectives in Germany, and thus undermine the latter's military might.

The successes of the Red Army could, however, have proved unstable and could be reduced to naught after the very first serious counter-blow on the part of the enemy were not the Red Army backed from the rear by our entire Soviet people, by our entire country. In the battles for the motherland the Red Army has displayed unexampled heroism. But the So-

viet people has not remained in debt to the Red Army.

Under difficult wartime conditions the Soviet people attained decisive successes in the mass production of armaments, ammunition, clothing and provisions and in their daily delivery to the fronts of the Red Army. During the past year the power of Soviet industry has substantially risen. Hundreds of new factories and mines, and dozens of power-stations, railway lines and bridges have been commissioned.

Fresh millions of Soviet people took their places at machines, mastered the most complex professions, became experts in their jobs. Our collective farms and State farms have stood the trials of war with credit. Under difficult wartime conditions, Soviet peasants work in the fields without folding their hands, supplying our Army and population with food and our industry with raw materials.

And our intelligentsia has enriched Soviet science and technology, culture and art, with new outstanding achievements and discoveries. Invaluable services in the cause of the defense of the motherland have been rendered by Soviet women, who work self-sacrificingly in the interests of the front, courageously bear all wartime hardships and inspire to fighting exploits the soldiers of the Red Army—the liberators of our motherland.

The Patriotic War has shown that the Soviet people is capable of performing miracles and emerging victorious from the hardest trials. Workers, collective farmers, intelligentsia, the whole Soviet people, are filled with determination to hasten the defeat of the enemy, to restore completely the economy ruined by the fascists, to make our country still stronger and more prosperous.

Under the blows of the Red Army the bloc of fascist states is cracking and falling to pieces. Fear and confusion now reign among Hitler's Rumanian, Hungarian, Finnish and Bulgarian "allies." At present these Hitler underlings, whose countries have been occupied or are being occupied by the Germans, cannot fail to see that Germany has lost the war. Rumania, Hungary, Finland and Bulgaria have only one possibility for escaping disaster: to break with the Germans and to withdraw from the war.

However, it is difficult to expect that the present governments of these countries will prove capable of breaking with the Germans. One should think that the peoples of these countries will have to take the cause of their liberation from the German yoke into their own hands. And the sooner the peoples of these countries realize to what an impasse the

Hitlerites have brought them, the sooner they will draw all support from their German enslavers and their underlings, the quislings in their own countries, the smaller will be the amount of sacrifices and destruction caused to these countries by the war, the more they can count upon understanding on the part of the democratic countries.

As a result of the successful offensive, the Red Army has emerged on our State frontiers on a stretch of over 400 kilometers and liberated more than three-quarters of occupied Soviet land from the German-fascist yoke. The object now is to clear the whole of our land of the fascist invaders and to reestablish the State frontiers of the Soviet Union along the entire line from the Black Sea to the Barents Sea.

But our tasks cannot be confined to the expulsion of enemy troops from our motherland. The German troops now resemble a wounded beast which is compelled to crawl back to the frontiers of its lair—Germany—in order to heal its wounds. But a wounded beast which has retired to its lair does not cease to be a dangerous beast. To rid our country and the countries allied with us from the danger of enslavement, the wounded beast must be pursued close on its heels and finished off in its own lair. And while pursuing the enemy we must deliver from German bondage our brothers, the Poles and Czechoslovaks, and others allied with us, the peoples of Western Europe, which are under the heel of Hitlerite Germany.

Obviously this task is more difficult than the expulsion of German troops from the Soviet Union. It can be accomplished only on the basis of the joint efforts of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of North America, by joint blows from the east dealt by our troops and from the west dealt by the troops of our Allies. There can be no doubt that only such a combined blow can crush completely Hitlerite Germany.

Comrades Red Army men and Red Navy men, sergeants, officers and generals, men and women guerrillas! Working people of the Soviet Union! Brothers and sisters who have temporarily fallen under the yoke of the German oppressors and have been forcibly driven to fascist penal servitude in Germany!

I greet and congratulate you upon the festival of May First!

I order: In honor of the historic victories of the Red Army on the front and to mark the great achievements of the workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia of the Soviet Union in the rear, today, on the day of the world festival of working people, at 8:00 P. M., a salute of 20 gun salvos shall be fired in

DEATH CAMP

By Yakub Kolas

Yakub Kolas, noted Byelorussian writer, recently visited liberated areas in Byelorussia where the Hitlerites had kept Soviet civilians in confinement.

Bare moss covers this swamp, some 40 to 45 hectares in area. The snow has not quite melted, but pools have already formed among the hummocks. Over them hangs a cold sky, curtained with clouds. A damp penetrating wind, bringing in its wake a wet snowfall, blows over the swamp. The thaw gives way to frost.

The swamp is in a zone of fire from both sides. It is fenced off with barbed-wire entanglements, and mines are densely planted on all sides. In this cold hell the German murderers herded several tens of thousands of the civilian population of Byelorussia, who were robbed on the way and were starved and poorly clad.

I have never in my life seen so many emaciated people. They are the victims of the Hitlerite executioners and murderers; they are the sons and daughters of the Byelorussian people—children, old men and women. It is they whom the German fiends kept in the death camp which they set up in the neighborhood of the town of Azarichi, Polesseye Region.

One cannot listen without a shudder to the stories of the people who have been in the clutches of the German beasts of prey. Whole families were wiped out—from old men to infants who had just been born into the world. People were burned alive in their houses, and those who sought shelter in basements were pelted with hand grenades. Those who by some miracle escaped death fled to the forests, but the Germans hunted them down, killed some and herded the rest into the camp.

Here is Arina Gavrilenko, a Byelorussian peasant woman, 62 years of age, a native of the village of Tolochki, Rogachev District. She lost four children; the Germans burned them alive. Two hundred eighty-seven inhabitants of her village, nearly the entire population, perished. Arina Gavrilenko cannot suppress her emotion when she speaks of the sufferings endured by the people and children she saw in the camp. The German fiends pitilessly tore children away from their parents. There was a three-year-old boy, Evstafi Golubovsky, of Zhlobin. Weary and hungry, numb with cold, the child wandered over the camp and cried and called for his mother. He was but one of many orphaned children. They huddled together in the cold, ice-covered hummock. They cried no longer, they called for their mothers no longer. They were exhausted, starved and no longer able to fight for their lives—lives that had just begun and that the Germans were cruelly cutting off.

"So they would sit, the poor dears, stiffening with the cold, until death would come to them," Arina Gavrilenko relates, and the tears stream down her old wrinkled face. This self-sacrificing simple woman has adopted the little Golubovsky boy.

"If you only saw how the Germans treated people, how they beat them, how they beat us women! No tears, no entreaties touched them. They are not human beings. They are beasts—worse than beasts."

Here is the story of Ludmila Pekorskaya, 19 years old, a native of Zhlobin:

"Before dark on March 12, 1944, the surviving inhabitants of our town were ordered to assemble within a half hour. Those who were late were driven out on the streets by the Germans, who set fire to their houses. At the point of guns we marched to the station south of Zhlobin. Here the Germans selected all the younger people and took them away, I don't know where. I had dressed like an old woman, so I got into a train together with the old people and children. It was a huge train. I didn't count the cars, but there must have been at least 100 of them. Among those herded in the cars were not only people from Zhlobin but from many neighboring villages. Children cried, women wept and tore their hair. It was a terrible sight.

"On the evening of March 15 we got to some station—I think it was Rabkor. We were told to get out of the cars. But most of our things remained there. At night we were taken somewhere. We walked knee-deep in mud, and the Germans kept hurrying us. We had hardly set out from the station when shots rang out. German escorts were shooting down those who were too slow. We walked for quite a long time. It was a hard journey. We could hardly drag our feet, but the Germans kept urging us on with blows and shots.

"There was a woman with three children. One of the little ones could not keep pace with the crowd and was falling behind. A German came over and shot him. When the mother and the other two children stopped in horror, he shot them too.

"At last we got to some fenced-off place. That was where we stopped. In the morning we saw we were in a swamp, and we also saw dead people around us. They had died during the night. The thousands of people who were kept in the camp were not fit to work. The younger and stronger ones were deported to Germany as slaves, and their fate is unknown. Among those confined in the camp were many sick with contagious diseases. It is obvious that the German fiends intended them to carry the contagion behind the Soviet lines."



RED ARMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNNERS ON THE ALERT—Sergeant I. Khrustalyev, commander of the crew, has been decorated for valor in action

GUNS THAT BRING VICTORY

Guns designed in the USSR and accepted for service by the Red Army Command have given a very good account of themselves. The war has also revealed the exceptional versatility of Soviet artillery. Weapons other than anti-tank guns of various types and caliber have been and are being successfully employed to repulse enemy tank attacks and counter-thrusts.

Our gunners are well acquainted with the so-called 152 mm. howitzer, 1937 model. Soviet war documentary films, including the Stalingrad film, give a splendid impression of this gun in operation. It has already been in service for seven years. Its long range and simplicity of operation make it a very formidable weapon in modern warfare. It was designed by F. F. Petrov in 1936—the first creative achievement of this talented designer, recently awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor.

Petrov is in charge of the designers' bureau at a Soviet factory, and takes a great interest in the organization of mass production of new types. Recently he has designed a new gun, a synthesis of all the best features of his earlier creations. It is simple in design. It has excellent fire qualities. Its production was organized in record time, and now the Red Army artillery has gained considerably in fire power.

F. F. Petrov is still a young man, a very forward-looking young man. "We grew up," he said recently, "at a time when modern guns were in the making. What we have achieved is ours, and no one can take it from us. We can do a great deal by means of 'coalescing' and 'superimposing'—utilizing existing aggregates as a basis for creating new and better guns with greater fire power. Our bureau is working on a number of new models which we feel confident will give satisfaction on the battlefield."

T A S S S T A T E M E N T

According to a report by a Washington correspondent of the International News Service, the Finnish minister in the U. S. A., Procope, in a conversation with the correspondent on the question of whether Finland bears the responsibility for the cessation of Soviet-Finnish negotiations, stated that the USSR interrupted the negotiations on April 22, that the USSR allegedly declined the offer of consideration of any changes, and that Finland allegedly twice

offered to continue the negotiations, but that the USSR had refused.

TASS is authorized to state that this report is absolutely contrary to the reality. After the receipt by the Soviet Government of the Finnish answer on April 19, the Finns did not address the Soviet Government, either with regard to the continuation of negotiations or for their renewal.

Game of Finnish Rulers Exposed

By K. Hofman

The attention of world public opinion has been centered in recent days on the "madness in Helsinki," as the London *Times* characterized the conduct of the Finns in breaking off preliminary negotiations concerning Soviet armistice terms.

In a statement at a press conference in Moscow on April 22, Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs A. Y. Vyshinsky revealed the true motives by which the Linkomies-Tanner government was guided in rejecting the Soviet terms. As pointed out by Vyshinsky, it became clear from the negotiations with the Finnish delegation in Moscow that to the Finnish government the main issue was the demand of the Soviet Government for the internment or expulsion of German troops stationed in Finland.

It is quite obvious that the attitude of the Finnish ruling circles on this issue is the touchstone by which it could be at once determined how seriously the present government of Finland desires peace, and what is the guiding line of the Finnish government at the present stage.

The Finnish government claims that this elementary Soviet demand, which would help restore Finland's sovereignty, is "technically unrealizable," although the Soviet Government has offered to send armed forces to help the Finns expel or intern the Germans. The present Finnish government has thereby demonstrated that when it entered into negotiations with the USSR, it by no means intended to get its country out of the war. On the contrary, it sought to make use of the negotiations for various political maneuvers in the interests of the Hitlerites; in other words, it sought to make use of them to drag out the war.

The Finnish press is seeking to persuade public opinion in the country that acceptance of the Soviet terms presented to the Finnish delegation at Moscow involves an "extreme" risk for Finland. It started an inspired campaign against the just Soviet demand of indemnity for the damage which Finland inflicted on the Soviet Union by the hostilities and the occupa-

tion of Soviet territory. Finnish newspapers are thus trying to divert attention from the main Soviet demand, the purpose of which is to rid Finland as quickly as possible of the Hitlerites and to get her out of the war.

The actual damage caused by Finland's hostilities against the USSR runs up to a huge sum. By demanding only partial compensation for damage, the Soviet Union has in this question, too, demonstrated its magnanimity with regard to Finland. It insists only on the vindication of justice. It is far from any desire to undermine Finland's economy or deprive her of economic independence.

The Soviet armistice terms, including a demand for indemnity in the sum indicated, were approved by the Allies, who found them to be moderate and fair. The Finnish government knows it quite well. Nevertheless it is seeking to sow mistrust in the camp of the Allies with regard to the Soviet Union's clear and magnanimous policy on the Finnish question. The Finnish minister in the United States, Procope, is trying to rally so-called "friends of Finland" among certain American circles, with the aim of getting absolution for the Hitlerite stand taken by Finland.

The Hitlerites, on their part, closely watching the development of Soviet-Finnish relations, are doing their utmost to encourage the Finnish ruling circles in their efforts along those lines. Their game has, however, failed from the start. From the numerous comments on Vyshinsky's statement it is obvious that diverse circles in the United States and Great Britain have emphatically condemned the stand taken by Finland in the negotiations with the USSR.

The Allies are in possession of sufficient information as to what is going on in Finland and the effect of the peace discussions on the Finnish army and rear. Reports from various sources show that the rejection of the Soviet peace terms has contributed to a growing lack of confidence in the Finnish government among large sections of the population of Finland.

Moscow, Leningrad, Gomel, Kiev, Kharkov, Rostov, Tbilisi, Simferopol and Odessa.

Long live our Soviet motherland!

Long live our Red Army and Navy!

Long live the great Soviet people!

Long live the friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union!

Long live the Soviet men and women guerrillas!

Eternal glory to the heroes who fell in the battles for the freedom and independence of our motherland!

Death to the German invaders!

(Signed) SUPREME COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION STALIN

THE ROADS TO BERLIN

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The Red Army is on the frontier of the Soviet Union. This is the dawn of freedom over Prague, Warsaw, Belgrade and Paris.

For a thousand days we have been fighting a life and death struggle. We do not philosophize. We do not devote ourselves to dreams and lofty declarations. We do not look at the calendar, and we do not wait for good weather.

Moscow well remembers that June Sunday, when the grave news came through the loudspeakers. The Germans, marching and singing, whistling and spitting, had crossed our frontier, snatching shawls and watches, crockery and honey. They shot our children. Their tanks flattened our fields. Their bombs burned our towns. Their Fuehrer howled: "This is the end of Russia."

In those days Moscow's rockets and guns spoke with different voices. We experienced the full measure of bitterness. But Moscow held out. Russia held out. We fought in frost, in rain, when roads were impassable. We had few tanks, we defended our freedom with fire bottles. When the Germans reached the Caucasus we did not despair. And the world sees which wins—determination or doubt, courage or waiting.

A thousand days and a thousand nights, in bitter frost and intense heat, the soldiers of the Soviet Union fought on. A thousand days and a thousand nights the arms workers of Russia forged arms. A thousand days and a thousand nights Moscow, with teeth clenched, worked on.

Now the days of glory have come. Where are the victors of Paris? Where are the Pomeranian cattle-breeders, the Bavarian brewers, the Frankfurt sausage-makers? Where are the Caesars from Schweinfurt? Where are the Napoleons from Swinemunde?

Their bones are littered over our soil. Their contemptible dreams are scattered to the winds.

The arrival of the Red Army on the Rumanian frontier spells the end of Hitler's campaign—but it is only the beginning of the Red Army's campaign. For the Red Army there is no frontier but the frontier of victory. The campaign of the bandits has ended. The campaign of justice has begun. The judges are marching west. The contemptible child-killers will not escape them.

Russia remembers everything. Germany will not be saved—by mountains, by rivers, or by super-totalitarian Fritzes. We are not playing with them. This is no quadrille. Indignant conscience leads us to the west. We march with a great oath on our lips: *Never shall this happen again*. We do not want the Germans to start another campaign in 1965. It was not we who began the war, but it is we who will finish it. And we shall finish it so that never again will they begin.

Now we are marching to them, and we shall reach them. We shall draw the fangs from the reptiles. We shall break their habit of fighting. The world looks with hope toward the Red Army. It brings freedom. We are proud that Poles, Czechoslovaks, Yugoslavs and Frenchmen fight on Soviet soil.

Now Hitler must be smashed finally. Many roads lead to Berlin. Berlin can be reached from the west. There is such a road, and it must be taken. The journey from the Volga to the Prut was no excursion. It was 15 months of battles. Victory has not come to us easily.

Now time does not wait. Spring is here, the time of sowing. Let the harvest be from Moldavia to Normandy, the harvest of victory!

NIGHT ACTION IN THE UKRAINE

By War Correspondent Eugene Krieger

There was no winter this year in the Ukraine. And the roads disappeared. The soil in the fields was swollen by melting snow, rain and flood. It puffed up like leavened dough. And where the earth had been stirred up by the wheels of war it did not dry, but hardened into solid lumps.

Amid this welter of spring mud the Soviet tanks plowed forward. We heard them in the rains of November, in the brief storms of January, in the February pandemonium of blizzard and flood, in the overflowing tide of March mud. The night, the mists and the rivers hear the clang of steel. There are no roads. The weather is vile. But the steel moves on into battle. Steel from the Urals, from Siberia. The steel of Soviet tanks.

There is a city in the Ukraine. It was held by the Germans, and they thought it was deep in their rear. In that town the German officials from Berlin lived sumptuously, slept in feather beds.

Russian tanks spoiled this eiderdown paradise. They appeared unexpectedly and upset all German conceptions of time and space. The officials abandoned the town in haste, while a feverish loading of sacks, cases and barrels went on in the railway yards. Thirty-seven trains, already made up, stood waiting for the engines to be attached, when on the outskirts of the town three tanks appeared with a small body of infantry—40 men in all—riding on them.

This was a long way behind the front line, where the Germans were still attempting to make a stand. Notwithstanding the panic of the first few moments, the Germans still retained their faculty for counting at least up to three. They counted, and couldn't believe their eyes. Three tanks—only three—and on them a handful of tommy gunners. The Germans must have decided the men in and on the tanks were lunatics. It was insane to think of capturing the town with a force like that. So they massed their self-propelled guns on a hill near the town and prepared to give battle.

Meanwhile the tanks down at the railway station had put three shells into a water-tower and sent it crashing, and the German observation post with it, thus blinding the enemy artillery. They had reduced the loading operations to inextricable confusion, scattered the guard, blocked the exit to the 37 trains, and were now roving the town pending the arrival of the main forces.

And they held their ground, those first three tanks commanded by Lieutenant Mikhail Tishchenko. What the Germans thought was insanity was the deliberate and calculated daring of Soviet commanders. Thirty-

seven trains fell into our hands. The Germans had no time to blow up the power-station. It remained standing with its dynamos turning, current switched on and the lamps burning in the houses.

Spring, summer and winter are inextricably mingled in the inclement weather of March. The ice on the rivers will stand no weight, yet the tanks keep moving westward. It is not only a question of armor.



Crew of a Soviet armored car, with their mascot

True, they know how to make tough steel in the Urals and Siberia. But our tanks are run by men. Men are conducting the offensive, and our country has trained them well for the task.

Before Mikhail Tishchenko, now a Hero of the Soviet Union, was called up for the army, he was a team leader on a collective farm in the Chernigov

Region. Before the war he served in the artillery. In 1941 he was sent to a military school in Bobruisk. He arrived at the school on a Saturday. On Sunday, blood was already flowing on our frontiers and the Luftwaffe was bombing our towns.

On June 22, 1941, Cadet Mikhail Tishchenko began to study, not in military school, but in the stern school of war. He has been fighting for nearly three years. At 25 he commands a tank company in the Ukraine. Here is the story of one of Lieutenant Tishchenko's nights. It was raining, as it had been doing for a month past. But there was no time to wait for good weather. In darkness the tanks slipped through the narrow neck of a breach made in the German front. They moved through the darkness. That is what the German panzers have never been able to do at the best of times.

In the blackness of the night they negotiated minefields, log-wall barriers and obstacles. They were able to do so because the route had been so well reconnoitered that the commander could lead his group blindfold. His orders were to make a wide detour to invade the suburb of a large town from the west. He was moving through enemy territory.

The Lieutenant and his tanks reached the suburb at a moment inconvenient for the Germans, who were in the middle of unloading a column of panzers from the platform cars in the station yard. Some of the panzers were already unloaded and ready for

action. The Germans had to be prevented from unloading the rest—that was the purpose of Tishchenko's mission. He had to engage them in a night battle and hold on stubbornly as long as he could, so as to facilitate our advance from the front.

But the Germans had considerable superiority of forces. The Lieutenant pondered in his box of steel for two whole minutes, and came to the conclusion that in this uneven fight his only salvation lay in surprise. His tanks opened fire from short range. The Germans were taken by surprise and at first all went well—very well. But then German rocket flares showed the German gunners their target.

The Lieutenant had no time to grieve or despair when he saw several of his tanks catch fire and knew his comrades in them were perishing. Tishchenko at that moment was nothing but an officer and a commander. He existed only for the battle. Otherwise he himself and his whole group would have been doomed. For nobody could help him here. He was in the enemy's rear.

A shell splinter had pierced his right eye. He was half-blind, but he carried out his orders. On his last surviving wireless set he transmitted periodically: "Still in the rear of the railway station . . . am holding on." The next morning the infantry took over from Lieutenant Tishchenko the German trains he had prevented from being unloaded and the German depots he had prevented from being removed.

Boy Guerrillas of Byelorussia

Ten Byelorussian children who for two and one-half years fought with the guerrillas commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union Victor L., have been adopted by the detachment. Each of these children has a story of his own.

Eight-year-old Sergei witnessed the shooting of his parents—Byelorussian peasants—by the Germans. He ran away to the forest, where he wandered alone until he found the guerrillas. Bent on revenging the death of his parents, the child got on good terms with a German commandant and ran errands for the Nazis—then one day placed several bombs under the commandant's desk. The house blew up, killing the commandant and four German officers.

Oleg, 10 years of age—son of a Red Army colonel—came to the detachment with his mother. His

father has been at the front since the first hour of war. The invasion caught the mother and son in their town, but they succeeded in escaping.

When Victor L. began building his guerrilla detachment in the spring of 1942, his underground group operating in a nearby town included a Latvian cook and his 12-year-old son, Jan, who rendered invaluable aid to the guerrillas.

Girls Help Rebuild Stalingrad

More than 400 youth brigades, composed mainly of girls, are working on the reconstruction of Stalingrad. Many of them have become skilled masons and glaziers.

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Army of Life

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Each of us has lived through many springs. Some of them were happy; others sad. But who will say that he has got used to spring? One is always stirred by the turn in nature, when the ice breaks in the rivers, the earth throws off its shroud of snow and the world, hitherto dumb and dreary, acquires sound and color.

Later . . . later . . . come wheat-ears, fruit, birds' nests and wisdom. But the spring is hope, renaissance in force, youth. From time immemorial

man has associated the coming of spring with the idea of the triumph of life. The Greeks created the Eleusinian mysteries: young Persephone held captive by the god of the infernal regions returns to the earth. In spring the early Christians celebrated the triumph of life. Sprouting seed, green shoot and flower-bud inspired man to wage war on darkness.

Hence arose May Day. Progressive minds associated the will of the peoples for a better world with the spirit of spring. To the frigidity of senile egot-



People's Artist of the USSR Ivan Moskvina, of the Moscow Art Theater, with a group of Young Pioneers

ism, of gloomy tyranny, they opposed the idea of the brotherhood of nations. Only the purblind will ask whether this is the time to talk of human solidarity, when arms have the floor; whether this is the time to talk of great hope, when spring has laid bare the ruins and graves.

We know that a gloom has been cast upon this spring, too. The shell-riven trees will not turn green. Rooks startled by the noise of battle wheel in dismay. But one thinks . . . never has there been a spring which so stirred the hearts of men as this. Millions of breasts beat with hope. As we gaze at the greening fields we faintly perceive the gold of happiness. We have changed a lot in these three terrible years. We have learned to understand much. But we have not forgotten our youthful vows.

We took up arms in defense of peace. We swore in the name of brotherhood to destroy fascism. It is not he who talks of love that loves . . . but he who risks his life defending others.

I recall the May Days of prewar times—merry girls in Red Square, banners, song and laughter. The memory sears like a red-hot iron, and it adds fire to our hatred. I recall May Day under other skies: processions in the streets of Paris, where paper carnations mingled with living lilies of the valley; the youth of old Prague; meetings in the emerald parks of Copenhagen. On May First, the Norwegian fisherman and Andalusian wine-grower swore fidelity to life.

Europe looks very small on the map. Yet how much variety there was in it; how many old cities, wonderful artists, mysterious customs, and songs. Every nation prided itself on its parks and its history. The English had their humor, the Spaniards their sarcasm, the French their wit. The Dutch reclaimed pastures from the sea. The Norwegians grew flowers beyond the Arctic Circle. The wastes of Murcia were planted with orange trees. The nations cultivated Europe like a garden . . . and they loved it as their home.

On the banks of the Dnieper I met a Luxemburg man who had deserted from the German army into which he had been impressed. I have visited his tiny country of roses and vineyards. The deserter made his way to us through a minefield, crying, "Long live my Luxemburg! Long live the Red Army!"

What has happened? Have ice-fields descended from the North Pole? Has eternal winter seized the olive groves and fruit orchards in its clutches?

No . . . the fascists have come. And with them came annihilation, devastation and the "new order" of death.

As if there was not a place for Germans under the sun! Pride had turned their heads. Greed had blinded them. They decided to conquer the world.

So a malignant ulcer developed in the very heart of Europe.

The French compounded perfumes and manufactured silk, wrote poems and shipped wine, built museums and argued about the future. Meanwhile, beyond the Rhine, German divisions were already marching. The English debated bills, played crick and dozed in club armchairs. Meanwhile across the North Sea submarines were being built.

The Czechoslovaks were settling in their new home, building schools and printing housewives' calendars. Meanwhile German tanks were already snorting at their frontier. The Belgians arranged exhibitions of lace, toys and fine glass. But the Germans were studying Belgium's roads. The Dutch grew tulips. The Germans trained parachutists. The shepherd in the mountains of Yugoslavia gazed at the stars and counted his sheep. The Germans counted their dive-bombers.

The Norwegians slept calmly among their fjords. But the Germans hadn't forgotten Norway either. The Danes disbanded their tiny army, declaring, "We are a peaceable people. We don't need soldiers." The Germans grinned: they needed Denmark. Was the Greek peasant thinking about the Germans? No, but the Germans were thinking that they could stuff Greece as well into their vestcoat pocket.

On the shores of a blue lake people sat discussing at length the duty of international solidarity. They spoke from force of habit, or because their office demanded it. To defend the world a sword is needed. But these chartered "appeasers" had nothing but toothpicks and earpicks.

In vain representatives of the Soviet Union warned that death menaced the world. Nobody listened to them. When the Germans were slaying Spaniards in Almeria, French ministers flattered themselves with the illusion of security. When the Germans broke into Prague, Polish generals smiled malevolently. The ulcer grew. Europe began to stifle.

Then came the days of shame and death.

Before me is a group of photographs. They came from Greece. One cannot look at them and remain calm. People are dropping dead from starvation in the streets of Athens. In the morning they are gathered up and carted outside the city. I have before me a letter from a Frenchwoman who escaped from prison in Fresnes. She writes, "Women were tied hand and foot and flogged. Alise and Marie spat blood in the faces of the Germans."

I don't want to talk of horrors just now. We must not have to be told about them. We remember them even in our sleep. After all, we do not live beyond the ocean. We have seen the Germans in our own land.

Not only brutality, but also unparalleled villainy characterized the deeds of the German army. They burned people alive and called it an "illumination."

They buried living people and called the graves "flower-beds." They slaughtered wholesale. They invented murder vans. They condemned year-old infants to death. They did what no human being can do. Let them expect no mercy. The conscience of nations will condemn those who attempt to defend the child murderers. Our magnanimity demands punishment suited to the magnitude of the crime.

The Germans have ostracized themselves from the family of nations. Those who slay children are not human beings. Misery and woe have cemented the brotherhood of nations, and all nations demand with one voice, "Death to the Germans!"

On this First of May we swear that we will be here and that we will remember everything . . . our woe and the woe of others, the burned villages of Serbia, the starved children of Greece, the tortured girls of France. Our love is too abundant to forgive this. We are the conscience of the world and when our Red Army man says, "For Terekhovka!" he also means "For Lidice!"—even if he has not read the story of the blood and ashes of Czechoslovakia.

The son of spacious Siberia, of the proud Caucasus—of Orel, Tambov and Penza . . . those fountain-heads of the Russian language—rose up in defense of his home. He was never a sword-rattler. He had his home and his dreams and a woman's caresses.

We did not dream of war. We wanted to till our soil, to raise our children, to show the world what Russian daring and Russian patience can accomplish. But when they invaded our land, even our forests became belligerent and were filled with shades of vengeance. In that terrible year of 1941, when others bewailed us and sang a requiem over us and buried . . . we stood firm to death. We did not hope for aid or for a miracle, nor did we place our trust in the saving virtues of space and time. We placed our trust in our own staunchness.

History has known no greater epic. Now in this spring of victory we may recall that autumn. I remember once walking the streets of Moscow hour after hour, gazing into the faces of passersby, and never once did I see a smile. The faces of all expressed that somber severity and yearning which set up in the path of the Germans and became their stumbling-block—the yearning for justice, and the conscience of the people.

We all know now how the campaign of the Germans ended. They got as far as the Caucasus, and now they cannot catch their breath at the Carpathians. In our steppes they lost their conceit and their "oak leaves" and their super-tanks and the lives of their grenadiers.

And that cordial, peaceable fellow from the Tambov Region or the Altai has become a Lieutenant of the Guards, has mastered the art of "pincers," has learned to fight as if he was born to it—and now,

poring over a map of Rumania, is threatening a regiment of Bavarian Jaegers. There is the hero of our times. The eyes of the world are upon him.

In the days when France taught the world the fundamentals of liberty and the canons of beauty, there was a saying to the effect that every man has two motherlands: his own and France. Recently we read in *Liberte*, an illegal French newspaper, "Now every nation has two bulwarks: its own indignation and the Red Army." Our soldiers should note these words. They are an expression of the gratitude of millions.

What are the Yugoslavs thinking about? Whose approach fills the hearts of the Czechoslovaks with joy? Whom do the French admire? In whom do the Norwegians repose their hopes? In a man they don't know . . . a man from the Volga or the Ukraine . . . in distant folk who have proved their ability to defend their own dignity and the liberty of the world.

Listen to the night over Europe. It is filled with groans, with confessions, with shots and vows. The ether resounds with the names of villages in the Western Ukraine or Moldavia or the Crimea. Of course, the announcers speak of other things as well, of military preparations, postwar plans, committees and sub-committees, cabinet changes, speeches and diplomatic notes. The announcers do, but not the people.

What are postwar plans to Europe, plunged into the inferno of the "new order"? To captive Europe there is only one living sound coming from the outside, and that is the tread of the Red Army. That's what it is listening for, as a walled-in man listens for every rustle.

A certain foreign journalist wrote, "Russia's path now coincides with the path of humanity." As if this were something fortuitous, an unforeseen piece of luck. Russia's path could not possibly diverge from the path of humanity, for that is the significance of Soviet Russia. In defending herself she is defending all, for her enemies are the enemies of justice, brotherhood and peace.

Through the clouds of gun-powder and smoke we can already descry the sun of freedom. Plenty of difficulties still lie ahead. The Germans will cling to every hummock and every building. They try to counter-attack. They are striving to postpone the end. They are in no hurry to die. It is we who are in a hurry. We want to live. The earth is yearning for wheat-ears, and the wheat-ears are yearning for the reaper. But this spring we are sowing the harvest of victory.

The army of life is marching to the west. And on this May First, our country which has suffered so much woe, may say with pride, "I've done all I can, and more. I stood firm, and now I am marching forward. I bring the waters of life."

MOSCOW NEWSREEL

By Yuri Karavkin

A shiny roadster drives along a Moscow street beside an agile little jeep with traces of front-line roads on its gray-green body. Girls in rough military boots and overcoats with Army insignia are strolling along the sidewalks. From a hotel emerge men with weather-beaten faces, wearing sheepskin coats and a red stripe on their caps—guerrillas from behind the enemy's lines, paying a brief visit to the Capital.

High above Red Square, the gigantic hands on the Kremlin's Spasskaya Tower clock mark the time. The sentries stand like statues outside the Lenin Mausoleum. The camera eye follows the stream of pedestrians into the subway, where trains whizz past magnificent new stations built since the outbreak of war.

New sequences flash past. We look into Moscow's war plants, where everything from hand grenades and automatic rifles to aircraft of the newest design is produced. Here is the director of one plant, the well-known pilot Lyapidevsky, first Soviet citizen to receive the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for his part in saving the Chelyuskin expedition in 1934.

Next we see Hero of Socialist Labor Alexander Yakovlev, noted aircraft designer, photographed at an airdrome. His famous YAK fighters have given a splendid account of themselves in action against the Germans.

Dozens of Nazi planes are lined up in the center of the city, at the Exhibit of Captured German Armament. Nearby are crippled Tiger tanks, Field Marshal von Paulus' radio, and the heavy guns which the Nazis planned to use against Moscow in the autumn of 1941. In glass-covered cases one sees pictures found in the pockets of German dead—who themselves photographed the slaughter of civilians, gallows executions and ditches filled with corpses.

Other shots reveal that Moscow is keeping a record of German brutalities. Here is the office of Alexei Tolstoy and members of the Extraordinary Committee for the Investigation of Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders. The tables are covered with German documents and photographs.

Several sequences of the newsreel are devoted to the activities of famous Muscovites. Architects Iofan, Mordvinov and Alabyan are seen working on designs for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of towns and villages wrecked by the fascist barbarians. Plans for the new Stalingrad, Kharkov and Smolensk flash on the screen.

Composer Dmitri Shostakovich is shown at his piano, wearing the medal "For the Defense of Leningrad" on his coat. At another piano in a military

hospital, Jacob Fliere gives a concert for wounded officers and men.

The camera now shoots down from the vaulted ceiling of a cathedral in Moscow. It is Sunday, and the worshipers have come to pray for the victory of the Red Army.

The highlights of a skating meet are filmed in one of the Capital stadiums. Inter-collegiate swimming races are being held in a large indoor pool. Slim, pretty Maria Ivanova emerges from the water. She is best student in her class and a member of the Moscow University swimming team.

It is evening. In newspaper offices cables from all over the world are received. Names of agencies and cities flash by: Reuters, United Press, London, New York, Chungking, Cairo, Ankara, Ottawa, Teheran. And here is the Moscow broadcasting station. The announcer is reading the latest Soviet Information Bureau communique, telling the country of new towns liberated by the Red Army from the enemy. There is a thunder of gun salvos. Thousands of flares shoot into the air. The Capital salutes another victory of the gallant Soviet troops.

Isaac Newton Scholarships

Fifteen Isaac Newton Scholarships for students in the mathematics and physics departments of Soviet higher educational institutes were recently established by the People's Commissariat of Education. Three of the scholarships have been awarded to students of Moscow University. The Scientific Council of the University selected two girl students of mathematics and a student of physics as the most deserving candidates for the scholarships.

Twenty-two-year-old Lida Kopeikina displayed outstanding ability in mathematics even as a child; in 1938 she won first prize in a contest in the Moscow secondary schools. After brilliantly graduating from the secondary school, she entered the mechanics and mathematics division of the University, where she is at present a senior, but is already doing post-graduate work.

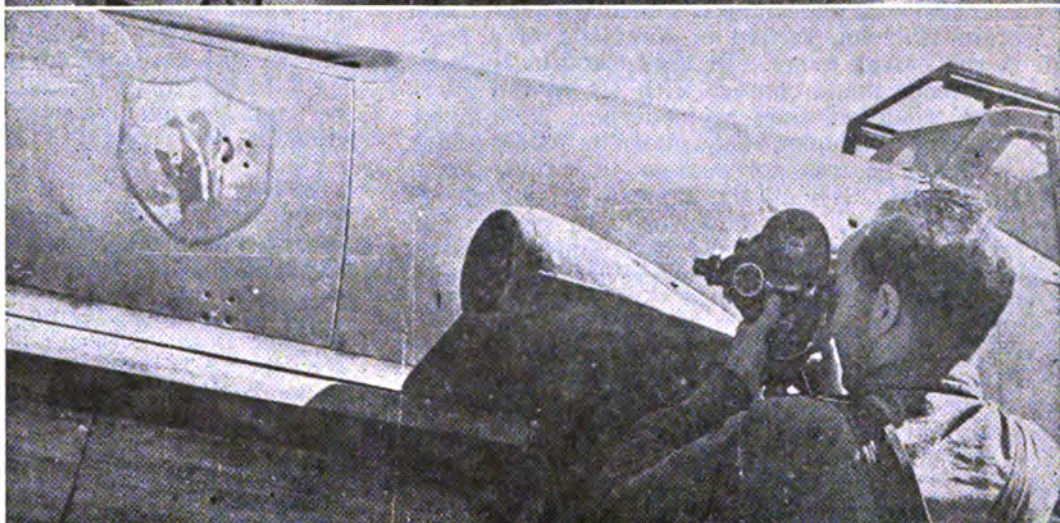
Anna Kolossovskaya, also 22 and in her sophomore year, is engaged in independent research in aerodynamics. The unusual ability shown in her researches earned her the Newton Scholarship. Vladimir Ugarov, 21 years of age, the third recipient, will be graduated this year from the physics division of Moscow University.

Major David Sholomovich, formerly a cameraman for the Moscow Newsreel Studios, mastered the duties of gunner, radioman and aviation mechanic—in order to accompany Soviet Stormoviks, bombers and long-distance reconnaissance planes on fighting assignments and to photograph their exploits. He is seen in the cabin of a Stormovik YAK-7 about to take off



Major Sholomovich's first flight as a gunner-radioman was in a P-2 assigned to bomb a German-occupied railway station on the Southern Front. His camera recorded the dive-bombing and strafing of Nazi troops by Soviet fliers

At right, Sholomovich photographs the emblem on the plane of a German ace shot down in the Kuban



Soviet newsreels have shown many of the aerial cameraman's exciting front-line episodes, such as a fight between a Soviet YAK-1 and a Messerschmitt in the Kuban, and the raid on Novorossisk. For bravery in action he has received the Order of the Red Star

Sholomovich takes a picture of the crew of a plane of the Siberian Chkalov Division



SECOND CZECHOSLOVAK BRIGADE FORMED IN USSR

By P. Lidov

The Second Czechoslovak Brigade formed in the USSR has completed training and is now ready for action. The Brigade is composed chiefly of Slovaks—officers and men of the Slovak army which was forcibly sent by the Germans to the Eastern Front. For some time the Slovak units performed duties in the rear of the German army, but were later shifted up forward. Immediately upon their arrival at the front, entire units with their commanders went over to the Red Army, expressing their willingness to join the armed forces of the Czechoslovak Republic and to fight the Germans, the age-old enemies of the Slavs.

Many of the Slovaks managed, even before they reached the Eastern Front, to establish contact with Ukrainian and Byelorussian patriots, and quitting their units joined the guerrilla detachments.

One of the most vivid chapters in the activities of these Czechoslovak guerrillas is linked with the name of Captain Nalepka, second in command of a regiment in the Slovak army. In 1942 Captain Nalepka and his friends made contact with Ukrainian guerrillas and rendered them considerable assistance. Upon meeting Nalepka, the guerrilla commander asked whether he was not anxious to return home. Nalepka replied, "It's all the same to us where we fight the Germans. We don't have to go far for that." He formed a guerrilla detachment consisting of Czechs and Slovaks, who were joined by Poles and Ukrainians.

When the Germans, forced to retreat by the Red Army, began setting fire to Ovruch, Captain Nalepka's unit marched into the city and saved the inhabitants from being carried off to Germany, and also rescued part of the city from destruction. In the battle for Ovruch, the brave Captain was killed, and one of the city streets now bears his name. Nalepka's detachment has merged with the Second Czechoslovak Brigade.

Recently Brigadier General Kratochvil, Commander of the Czechoslovak Forces in the USSR, invited a number of guests to visit the Second Czechoslovak Brigade, including Zdenek Firlinger, Czechoslovak Ambassador to Moscow; Lieutenant General A. Gundorov, President of the All-Slav Committee; V. Mochalov, Secretary of the All-Slav Committee; Marek Culen, Slovak public figure and member of the All-Slav Committee; Brigadier General G. Pika, Chief of the Czechoslovak Military Mission in the USSR; K. Gotwald, V. Kopecki and R. Slanski, members of the Czechoslovak Parliament; Major General V. Evstigneyev, Chief of the Foreign Relations Department of the USSR People's Commissariat of Defense; Lieutenant General V. Tsyganov and other generals and officers of the Red Army; a delegation

from the Polish Army in the USSR, headed by Major General B. Poltorzcitski; a delegation from the Yugoslav troops in the USSR, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Mesic; local officials and Moscow newspapermen. A guard of honor was drawn up at the railway station to greet the Czechoslovak Ambassador and other guests.

The achievements of the Brigade in various branches of military and physical training were demonstrated. The visitors were deeply impressed with the proficiency displayed by the troops as a result of their intensive training under the direction of the Brigade Commander, Lieutenant General V. Przikril.

On Sunday, April 23, the visitors were invited to attend a ceremony in connection with the Brigade's forthcoming departure for the front. The Brigade was drawn up in the city square, before a platform decorated with the flags of the Czechoslovak Republic and the USSR. Thousands of Soviet citizens turned out to bid farewell to the Czechoslovaks going to fight in the common cause. Many had formed close personal friendships with the officers and men of the Brigade.

General Pika greeted the men, drew from its envelope a straw-colored silk standard with a border in the Czechoslovak national colors, and presented it to the troops with the following words:

"You are now facing the most momentous hour of your lives. Destiny has chosen you to win back the liberty of your people and to exact vengeance from the Hitlerite enslavers for their untold crimes. The Commander-in-Chief of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces and President of the Czechoslovak Republic has sent you this standard, as a symbol of liberty and political independence. In your historic fight you will not be alone. The entire Czechoslovak people is taking part; all our Allies are fighting shoulder to shoulder with us; with us is the glorious Red Army. May you carry this standard, disgraced by no one, onto the liberated and precious soil of our motherland."

General Pika then presented the standard to the Commander of the Brigade, after which he read a message from Dr. Eduard Benes, President of the Republic. Greetings were also read from the Czechoslovak Government and General Ingr, Minister of National Defense.

Zdenek Firlinger, the Czechoslovak Ambassador referred to the splendid training of the Brigade.

"You are going into the fight," he said, "with the gallant Red Army which is clearing the road for us back to our country. It is already at our frontiers."

and will soon sweep like an avalanche across the last barrier of the Carpathians. I know it is your most ardent wish to march in the front ranks of our Slav brothers and to be the first to set foot on our soil. May your wish be gratified. Help us wreak vengeance for the crimes perpetrated by the German and Hungarian fascists, age-old foes of the Slovaks, and of the Czechoslovak people generally. Help us to redress the injustice done to our Republic, to restore to our country the Slovak and Czech lands of which it has been robbed. Help us to strengthen still further the ties of friendship which bind us to the peoples of the great Soviet Union. I am confident you will follow in the footsteps of our gallant First Brigade, and I wish you this from the bottom of my heart. Zdar!"

A warm, heartfelt address was made by K. Gotwald, member of the Czechoslovak Parliament. His concluding words: "Czechoslovak troops, Nazdar! To the Supreme Commander, Dr. Benes, Nazdar! To Marshal Stalin, Nazdar!" were re-echoed by a loud and enthusiastic "Zdar!"

After the ceremony of the presentation of colors, a choir sang the Czechoslovak and Soviet anthems. The Brigade then took the oath, after which Soviet and Czechoslovak decorations were presented to those officers and men who had distinguished themselves in action. Major General Evstigneyev congratulated them and reminded them they were about to engage a treacherous and cruel foe.

The Brigade then paraded past Ambassador Firlinger, Lieutenant General Tsyganov and Major General Evstigneyev. Columns of riflemen, tommy gunners, machine gunners, mortarmen, artillerymen and anti-aircraft gunners filed by, with fine military form. The visitors had a view of some of the splendid up-to-date armaments with which the Soviet Government has abundantly supplied the Czechoslovak troops.

Lieutenant Colonel Przikril's Brigade will soon leave for the front to fight side by side with the Red Army and with General Svoboda's First Bogdan Khmelnitsky Czechoslovak Brigade.

Meeting of Executive Board of Union of Polish Patriots in USSR

By Wende

A Plenum of the Executive Board of the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR was held in Moscow in April. The members of the Board and the Presidium gathered at the new offices of the Union to discuss its past work and to outline its future tasks.

Andrzej Witos, Vice Chairman of the Union of Polish Patriots, reported on the Union's achievements. Witos characterized the period under review as the stage of the realization of their program. In 10 months of activity (the first Congress of the Union was held June 9-10, 1943), a great deal of work has been accomplished with extremely good results.

The main task has been the creation of a Polish Army on the territory of the USSR. The most active members of the Union devoted all their efforts to the realization of this task. The goal was achieved. The formation of an efficient Polish Army is the best proof of the energetic and capable activities of the Union.

On September 1, 1943 the First Polish Division, named in honor of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, left for the front. Displaying heroism and valor in its first battle, the Division won an honorable place in the ranks of those fighting for democracy and freedom.

The Division was converted into a Corps in September,

1943. In January, 1944 a Second Polish Division, named for General Dombrowski, went to the front; in March the Third Division, named for Traugut, was ready for action. On March 9, the Polish Corps commanded by General Zigmund Berling became an Army. Polish officers and men have displayed great courage in action. Two hundred and forty-two have been decorated.

The Polish Army is tremendously popular in the USSR as well as in Poland. Innumerable statements made by Polish guerrillas testify to the great trust enjoyed by the Polish Army. The guerrillas are sparing neither strength nor means to establish ties with the Polish Army formed in the USSR and now approaching its country.

Witos referred to the past stage as one of organization and rallying of forces, and went on to speak of future activities. A network of organizations of the Union, embracing all regions, districts and cities where Poles are living, is being created. Much effort is still required for these organizations to get in touch with all the Poles living on the territory of the USSR.

The Union has developed important activities in the sphere of education. Newspapers are being published and radio broadcasts organized for Poles in the USSR and Poland. The Department of Education is doing good work in collaboration with the

Committee for the Welfare of Polish Children formed by the Soviet Government. One hundred and fifty-four schools have been opened to accommodate 12,000 children, and there are already 50 children's homes. A magazine for children, *Plomyzcek*, is being published. Children's camps are being organized for the summer holidays. Plans are in progress to open courses for improving teachers' qualifications. Thirteen textbooks in the Polish language have been published for Polish children; and 35 textbooks, to be issued in over 30,000 copies, are being prepared for the press. The publishing house of the Union has already issued 120,000 copies of books.

After a lively discussion, in which all Board mem-

bers took place, a resolution was adopted approving the work of the Executive Board of the Union of Polish Patriots and outlining a number of new tasks. On the basis of the decisions of the first Congress, the following new members of the Executive Board were co-opted: Colonel Alexander Zawadzki, Second in Command of the Polish Army in the USSR; Emil Sommerstein, member of the Sejm and Doctor of Law; Jerzy Sztachelski, M.D.; Jan Grubecki, engineer; Jakub Berman, journalist, and Stanislaw Radkiewicz, public figure.

With this the Plenum closed. The members of the Union of Polish Patriots are approaching the fulfillment of their new tasks with even greater energy.

GUERRILLA NEWSPAPERS

By Nikolai Voronov

Since the Leningrad Region has been liberated, the names of guerrillas who played an important part in helping the Red Army oust the invaders have become widely known. Among the many decorated for bravery behind the enemy lines are a number of editors and workers on underground newspapers. It is no longer necessary to conceal the fact that Soviet papers issued by these daring patriots had much to do with maintaining morale in the occupied areas.

The Germans kept up a barrage of lying propaganda in the captured districts, but the guerrilla newspapers successfully combated this. Among the papers well-known to Soviet readers in enemy-occupied territory were the *Red Partisan*, the *Path of Socialism*, and the *Gdov Collective Farmer*. There were dozens of others, besides leaflets and special bulletins, all printed under conditions of extreme terror.

The *Red Partisan* was once attacked as it was about to go to press. Compositors and editorial workers had no time to evacuate their entire printing outfit, but they hid part of the paper, ink and type and carried away the presses. That night a group returned to their former camp and removed the remaining supplies. The succeeding issue of the paper was printed in a swamp, in 400 copies, all of which were distributed to the guerrilla detachments and outlying villages.

The Germans set prices of from 20,000 to 30,000 marks on the heads of well-known guerrilla editors—Mikhail Abramov, Peter Solovyev, Victor Karpov and Konstantin Obzhigalin. But no one betrayed them; instead, they were given every possible as-

sistance by the people, with whom they had reliable contacts for distributing the papers.

Katya Yegorova, a collective farm woman of the Utorgosh District, always carried the newspapers with her when she took cream and milk to the market. She passed the papers to the villagers, who distributed them to outlying districts. The Germans finally caught Yegorova and executed her. But others took her place.

To Soviet citizens under the Nazi yoke, these newspapers were a tangible contact with their country—"as good as a letter from our homeland," said one collective farmer. From the papers the people learned the truth of the situation at the front, and gained fresh strength for the struggle and new faith in victory.

ZONE NUMBERS

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THEY WILL REMEMBER SEVASTOPOL

By Vadim Kozhevnikov

The Germans began to rebuild the fortifications near Sevastopol a week after they took the city and continued the work for almost two years. Tens of thousands of Crimean inhabitants were driven here to slave for the enemy. They worked day and night, winter and summer. The bodies of those who died from exhaustion were dumped into the sea with rocks tied to their feet. Even when the front line was far from the Crimea, the Germans continued to haul guns to the Sevastopol heights. The nerves of the Hitlerites who had experienced the eight months' stubborn defense of Sevastopol by Soviet people were very in steady.

When Soviet forces leaped across the Sivash, Chon-

gar and Perekop, and swept down the Peninsula like an avalanche, the remains of the German and Rumanian formations and units fled back to their last shelter in Sevastopol, where tens of thousands are now concentrated in a restricted area. They took with them the guns and mortars which escaped destruction, in an effort to postpone the hour of inevitable punishment. They are trying to cover the threatened area with fire, and it must be admitted the density of their fire today is considerable.

Observing the German firing lines from above, one sees a river of smoke and flame and shattered rocks flying in all directions before the protruberant belts



A group of women who formed part of the guerrilla forces which cooperated with the Red Army in driving the Germans from the Crimea. Many dispatches from this front emphasized the great part played by guerrillas in the swift liberation of the Peninsula

Radiophoto

of enemy fortifications. And this river slowly moves along its entire length, now forward, now back, depending upon whether the Germans are trying to bar the advancing Soviet forces or cut them off from the rear. But the capacity of this river is receding, in the same order—as first the voices of the German front line, then the army and finally the corps radio stations are smashed by our shells.

We move along a path between dusty bushes and up the slope of a canyon. The sultry sun dries the air and breathing is difficult. The regimental guns are dug in stone on the plateau. Their volleys ring out clearer and oftener. The gunners work like smelters in front of red-hot furnaces, in their underwear or naked to the waist. After several volleys the ground ahead of the guns is swept and watered to relieve the range-finders from the dust raised by explosions.

The Germans are firing shrapnel. It bursts near a ditch where signalmen are having a bite to eat. "Why are you sitting there, you fellows?" someone asks. "That last one was too close for comfort."

"It's all the same wherever you go," one replies. "We've got to save our legs for something more important. We'll have to put up another line pretty soon."

A wagon with rubber-tired wheels, drawn by a scraggy horse, approaches the ditch. "Hey, why don't you look where you're going?" the men complain.

"It's Fritz's horse . . . he doesn't understand our commands," answers the driver.

A wounded man using his belt as a sling for his injured arm comes up, asking for a cigarette. He exclaims bitterly, "What a shame! I could see the sea right in front of me. A little more pep and I'd be in Sevastopol."

A group of tommy gunners passes. "How do you get to Sevastopol from here?" the senior asks. The wounded man livens up and waving his good arm explains, "Go down this ravine and turn to the left, and when you pass Fritz's cemetery, keep straight on." The tommy gunner nods his head . . . "Thanks, comrade" . . . then adds, "Quick-step! March!" The words are hardly out of his mouth when three explosions rock the air. By the time we pick ourselves off the ground, the tommy gunners are a dusty cloud in the distance. The wounded man follows them with envious eyes. "They'll get there for certain," he says.

Everyone here is talking of Sevastopol with the firm conviction that the hour of retribution for the

enemy in this land, every inch of which has become forever sacred to us, is approaching. In this battle, the heroes of the second defense of Sevastopol stand like shadows behind every man, inspiring him to redoubled rage and fury.

It is because of this that Likharev's sappers, after clearing a passage through minefields for our tanks, did not wait for them but hurled themselves into the attack. The sappers captured a German trench in fierce hand-to-hand fighting and repulsed the counter-attacks of a Nazi battalion for an entire day. When their last round of ammunition was spent, the sappers laid mines on the breastworks of the trench, tied the detonators with wire and when the German tommy gunners approached, jerked the wires simultaneously.

The memory of the heroes of Sevastopol is spurting the men to new feats of military valor. Corporal Polkhanov's leg was smashed, but he summoned all his strength and dragging his anti-tank rifle crept up to a Ferdinand and wiped out its crew. Polkhanov was found by the bloody trail he left behind. Before he died this brave man wrote on his Party card, "If possible, I wish to be buried where I am found, and on my tombstone note that I died for Sevastopol."

Soviet artillerymen roll their guns ahead by hand and under a hailstorm of shell splinters and bullets destroy the enemy fire nests with point-blank fire. At the same time Soviet infantrymen capture one trench after another.

Only after seeing these positions, covered with sharp gray splinters, the blindages with crushed-in walls and roofs, the piles of turned-up rocky soil and the earth strewn with the bodies of Germans and Rumanians—only after this does one realize the might of Soviet artillery, the strength and stubbornness of those who hauled their guns up to such elevations, where a mountaineer traveling light could have reached the summit only after great effort.

At night the sky above Sevastopol is a glowing red, filled with the droning of motors and roar of explosions, as if the mountains were cracking asunder. The Germans have set up anti-aircraft guns and the curtain of fire they raise at night is so thick it seems as if a many-colored rainstorm had burst over the city. But our planes penetrate this fire curtain, dump their missiles in the bay and sink ships at sea, while the Junkers-52 transport planes are shot down as they take off from the airfield.

The Germans will long remember Sevastopol. The very name of this Russian naval city will be a nightmare to them for many years to come.

THIRD STATE WAR LOAN

With the aim of drawing additional means to the defense of the country, the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR has decreed:

1. To issue a Third State War Loan in the amount of 25 billion rubles for a period of 20 years.

2. To free from taxation and collections, both State and local, obligations of the loan and incomes derived from these obligations, including lottery winnings.

3. To affirm the conditions of issue of the Third State War Loan presented by the People's Commissariat of Finance of the USSR.

* * *

PRAVDA writes editorially of the Third State War Loan:

The May Day Order of Marshal Stalin evoked tremendous waves of labor and political enthusiasm throughout the country. The front and rear—the

Red Army and the entire people—declare their full readiness to hasten the defeat of the enemy. The tremendous success of the Third War Loan . . . is a striking and stirring demonstration of this great nationwide enthusiasm. In one day alone, Moscow, Leningrad, Gorky, Sverdlovsk, Novosibirsk, the Moscow Region and Georgia and Turkmenia exceeded their quotas for the loan.

Reports from all parts of the country reveal that subscriptions are proceeding better than last year, although that loan was brilliantly successful. In cities, subscriptions in sums exceeding monthly wages have become a mass occurrence. In the countryside the number of men and women collective farmers who subscribe tens and hundreds of thousands of rubles is increasing hourly. Already there are dozens of districts where every collective farmer has subscribed to the new loan and paid for the bonds immediately in cash.

By their unanimous subscriptions to the loan the Soviet people demonstrate their unity and will to struggle for victory.

The Year of Retribution

By Ilya Ehrenburg

A couple of years ago the Germans conceived a passion for "studying Russia." They wanted to learn all about the new living space, about the climate, soil and customs of "Ostland." They even published a booklet of Russian proverbs. No doubt Field Marshal Mannstein had a copy. I don't know whether he had time to study it. On quitting Jassy for some more tranquil spot, he may perhaps have recalled one of the sayings quoted in the booklet:

You fly well, but where will you roost?

In these significant days when most of us are so intrigued by the future, my thoughts turn back to the past, to that summer day which will remain forever in our memories. There is a link between Sunday, March 26, 1944, and Sunday, June 22, 1941. The war is still on, and the Prut is only an episode. After the Dnieper, it isn't the Prut that will halt us. But a chapter in the history of the war has closed—namely, Hitler's campaign against Russia.

When I talked to the Germans in Paris in the summer of 1940, they arrogantly declared: "We will introduce order in Russia." For, only think, in those days Poltava, Chernigov, Minsk, Gomel, the palaces

of Tsarkoye Selo, the woods of the Crimea, Orel, Smolensk and ancient Novgorod were all intact! How could this be tolerated by men with the skull and crossbones on their sleeves and the cry: "Death!" on their lips? The necrophiles and vampires gazed greedily eastward, where people were still living in peace and tranquility. No, order had to be introduced into Russia. The SS men stamped impatiently, like restless horses.

"There is oil and manganese there," breathed the Ruhr magnates.

"There is wonderful black earth there," exclaimed the future colonists.

"There are sauries there and caviar and honey," murmured the emaciated Valkyries.

"The scepter of the world is there," thought that crafty, malevolent and ignorant maniac nicknamed the "Fuehrer."

That Sunday they flapped their wings and flew, field marshals, grenadiers, panzers and propaganda com-

panies. The German general staff had the forethought to print maps of Bashkiria and Azerbaijan. Goebbels published a "Guide to the Labyrinth of the Russian Soul." It contained the following dictum: "The Russians are slow to flare up and quick to die down."

Yes, the Germans studied Russia carefully. They thought their fast panzers would outstrip our wrath. For they were attacking a peaceable, kind-hearted people, educated in the spirit of human brotherhood. The Germans not only enjoyed a superiority in tanks. They also knew that people accustomed to look aloft are unfamiliar with the habits of snakes.

It is true that we don't flare up easily. But the fire in our hearts is an all-consuming fire. Hitler thought he would get to Moscow before Russia had recovered from the shock, before she had time to grow furious, to muster up her strength. He was so confident that when he reached Vyazma, he said it was all up with the Red Army.

He didn't know how lofty were the sentiments which supported the life of the Soviet Republic. He didn't know our soldiers could stop a tank column with hand grenades. He didn't know our workers were capable of unloading factory machinery at a roadside station and starting work right away. He didn't know that at the head of our State stood a man whom nobody has ever been able to bend.

When in that grim autumn of 1941 we said to ourselves "Hold on!" we knew we would hold on. The greatness of a nation imposes great obligations. We could not take the road of shame; all our history, our traditions and the fires of revolution pointed to the road of trial and pride. We didn't argue, we didn't try to explain. We fought.

What we said in those days is now being said by

guns at the Carpathians. The campaign of the ersatz Napoleon is ending in a vain fussing of the surviving Fritzes on the banks of the Prut, in the subjugation of a submissive Hungary.

Nemesis stands at the gate of Germany. Hitler is afraid his Hungarian and Rumanian menials may betray him. What does his "conquest" of Budapest signify? It signifies that Hitler's campaign against Russia is ended, and that the Red Army has begun the campaign in the west.

We don't close our eyes to difficulties. We are strong enough not to under-rate the enemy's strength. We know Hitler will offer a desperate resistance. But we also know that the Red Army, which crossed the Dnieper in hastily contrived rafts and inflated tent cloths, which in a few days traversed hundreds of kilometers through mud and spring thaws, will not be halted by Rumanian fiddlers or Hungarian dancers, or their German masters.

The Red Army is marching on Berlin, and it will get there. We are not vindictive. But it is useless for the Germans to reckon on our memories being short. The men who marched through the devastated zone from Orel to Kiev will never forget what they saw. The death of children cannot be forgiven. Even the mother eagle does not forgive the death of her fledgling. The heart keeps its reckoning.

We will not stop at the frontiers of Germany; victory lies beyond those frontiers. We must put an end to the instigators of wars once and for all. Let the men and women of Germany remember the year 1944 as the year of retribution. Let the coming German generation grow up in mortal fear of war. On June 22, 1941, the Germans overturned the frontier posts. Let them not look for them now.

DISABLED WAR VETERANS WORK FOR VICTORY

Among the vast numbers of Soviet patriots working selflessly to bring victory over the enemy are the disabled veterans of the Patriotic War. Their hatred of the fascists, whom they have known in action, is so profound that they work with even greater energy than before their disability.

Many, of course, are no longer able to continue at their old trades and must be trained in new skills. Through Soviet social maintenance agencies, 90 per cent of the partially disabled veterans have been placed in new jobs, and despite physical handicaps show a high productivity of labor. Thousands of

veterans are doing administrative work. In the Voronezh Region, 600 hold posts as chairmen of collective farms or village Soviets.

Special laws have been passed to make their working conditions easier, and great attention is paid to improving their material well-being. The Council of People's Commissars has made the directors of social maintenance organizations personally responsible for providing disabled veterans with proper work, and preference must be given them in factories and offices. The wages and pensions of the majority of the veterans exceed their prewar earnings.

RETURN TO KHERSON

By Boris Gorbato

Ancient Tauria! Ancient, abundant, rich. Her black earth shines with wealth. Her orchards stand deep in spring freshets. Her green fields greet the spring and the sun.

But now the villages are burned, the pastures trodden out. The body of ancient Tauria is mutilated. The Germans bit avidly into this fat, abundant steppe. Now, breaking the enemy's spine, ferreting him out of his holes, our infantrymen march westward.

I remember Kherson in the bitter August of 1941, quiet before the calamity. I remember the dust on the road, the malignant roar of Heinkels over the Dnieper ferries. Going east beyond the Dnieper we silently vowed: *We will return*. And we have returned! Now the sky is ours, the river is ours, no matter how hard the Germans fight back. Kherson rises before us. The streets are deserted. Not a

single person is in sight. In the center of the town there are hardly any fires. Many fine buildings are quite undamaged. But the people of Kherson, where are they?

When we entered the town we saw a notice. The German commandant informed residents: "The gravity of the situation requires a certain severity," therefore "it is forbidden to appear in the streets between three P. M. and five A. M. Persons not at home during these hours will be prosecuted." "Prosecuted" meant "shot." This was explained to us by some people who crawled out of a cellar.

After Soviet troops forced the Dnieper, took Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk and reached the Dnieper opposite Kherson, the commandant's notice appeared. After three P. M. Kherson went dead, except for the German patrols who marched the streets nervously. The Dnieper bank was fenced off with barbed wire. And still the Germans did not feel reassured. Our



Soviet troops pass through a liberated village on their march to the west

people, even locked in their houses, frightened them. They began to evict the citizens of Kherson from their homes. This is how it was done:

Suddenly a truck with a megaphone, a forerunner of disaster, would appear in the street. Women held their children close as the megaphone announced: "All residents of this street are ordered to leave their houses immediately or be shot." The people were not allowed to take anything with them. They were simply driven out of the town of their birth, the town they had built, and locked up in camps.

Many scattered in the villages. Others hid. There were some who even immured themselves in the walls, only one other knowing the hiding place of each fugitive. Food was brought secretly at night. If the Germans caught the bringer of food, the immured person died in his refuge.

I talked to a young boy, Leonid Vinichenko. He and eight comrades, one of them a girl, lived for four months in a forgotten cellar. His little sister fed them all. Old Zalevsky and some comrades hid in the

marshes. The Germans spotted them. A cruel little war began. Whoever could, tried to reach our bank by swimming the Dnieper. Kherson dreamed about the "other bank." The "other bank" was the symbol of freedom. But it was not easy to reach.

Having driven the people out of their homes, the Germans began to loot the empty town systematically. I have seen many towns wrecked, mutilated and burned by the Germans. But the looting of Kherson is the most thorough I have ever seen. Not a single public or private building escaped the plunderers. Everything of any value—furniture, clothing, even dishes—was stolen by the Germans. What they could not take away, they smashed. The floors of houses and flats are deep in feathers from quilts, fragments of mirrors, legs of broken chairs, torn pages of books.

The Germans had time to loot the town, but they did not have time to burn it. They set fire to the railway station, blew up the Petrovsky factory, the bakery, the power station, the flour mill. They would have burned everything, if the Red Army's sudden, swift thrust had not knocked them out of the town.

SOVIET CHEMISTS IN THE DONBAS

By I. Andronov

During their two years' rule in the Donbas, the fascist authorities tried to exploit its enterprises to replenish their dwindling military and strategic resources. They hoped to reopen the coal pits and set the chemical plants going again.

After great effort they managed to start production in one section of the sulphuric acid department of the Konstantinovka plant, one of the largest chemical enterprises in the USSR. Production was six per cent of the prewar figure. Soviet patriots who had remained behind resolved to deprive the Germans of even this meager output. They launched a sabotage campaign by blowing up a steam boiler. Hardly had it been repaired when all the chemical apparatus was damaged. The Germans gave up trying to get any sulphuric acid from Konstantinovka.

The same thing happened at the Slavyansk soda factory, where the Germans managed to prepare lime furnaces, two steam boilers, two drying ovens and other apparatus. Here also sabotage was highly effective. On the eve of their retreat from the Donbas, the Germans destroyed all the chemical plants. The enormous works at Rubedzhansky were burned to the ground. The entire Konstantinovka plant was blown up and the workers' settlement burned.

The Nazis demolished the lime furnaces, blasted the boiler room and set fire to the caustic soda shop of the Slavyansk soda factory. They mined practically every yard of the factory premises, the streets,

homes and offices. At this factory alone Soviet sappers dealt with nearly 3,000 mines.

But the chemical enterprises of the Donbas are already being restored, and will soon be back in production. Managers, chief engineers, chief mechanics and shop superintendents have been appointed. The workers are returning to their old jobs at Konstantinovka, Slavyansk, Gorlovka and Stalino, after living as fugitives from the Germans for two years.

The People's Commissariat of the Chemical Industry daily receives a flood of applications from engineers and workers in the central and eastern regions of the USSR, who ask to be allowed to help restore the Donbas chemical industries. Trains carrying building materials, equipment, tools, trucks, oil, food and medical supplies arrive daily. To speed up reconstruction, a large contingent of workers employed by the building and installation organizations of the People's Commissariat of the Chemical Industry was transferred to the Donbas from construction jobs in the central regions of the USSR.

Power plant experts have come to the aid of the Donbas chemical workers, so that the restored enterprises shall not lack electrical energy. The necessary reserves of water are being created in reservoirs outside Slavyansk and Konstantinovka, and the railways are coping successfully with gigantic tasks. The People's Commissariat of the Chemical Industry reckons on starting production in all the principal shops of the Donbas chemical plants in 1944.

THE GERMANS IN NORTHERN FINLAND

By Y. Palei

The negotiations with the Finnish delegation in Moscow revealed that the chief stumbling block for the Finnish government is the Soviet Government's demand that German forces in Finland be either interned or ejected. The Finnish government asserts that adoption of the Soviet demands would threaten Finland's further existence as an independent state. What are the real facts?

Present-day Finland is not an independent state. She lost her independence the moment her rulers came to an agreement with Hitler and allowed German troops to enter Finnish territory. The real masters in Finland are the Germans, who have converted her into a semi-occupied country. This is clearly and convincingly illustrated by the case of northern Finland, where German armed forces are chiefly concentrated.

Even as far back as a quarter of a century ago, northern Finland held a prominent place in the German imperialists' plans of military aggression. Gendörff wrote: "It was not Finnish but exclusively German interests which brought German troops to Finland." General von der Goltz, commander of the German forces which entered Finland in 1918 on the invitation of the Finnish reactionaries, subsequently admitted that Germany "pursued her own interests."

Prominent among these interests were northern Finland as a military base and the resources of that region. The German general staff reckoned on using northern Finland as a springboard for invading the Soviet Union, seizing Murmansk and Archangelsk and cutting the railroad connecting the Soviet North with the rest of the country, as well as the Soviet Union's northern sea communications through the Barents Sea.

Furthermore, northern Finland in the Germans' hands was to serve as a base for the conquest of the Scandinavian countries. It would protect the right flank of the German occupation forces in Norway and enable the Germans to exercise military and political pressure on Sweden. In addition, a base in northern Finland opened up prospects for the systematic German penetration of the rest of the country. Northern Finland also attracted the attention of the Germans as a source of strategical raw materials.

The Germans had no need to resort to force to obtain possession of northern Finland and its resources. Finland's present rulers lightheartedly surrendered northern Finland to Hitler, hoping in return to seize Soviet territory with the aid of the Germans. They allowed German troops to enter Finland for a joint attack upon the Soviet Union. Under pretext of placing northern Finland at the Germans'

disposal for quartering their troops, they actually placed their region under the complete control of the Hitlerites.

The Finnish newspaper *Ilta Sanomat*, writing recently on conditions in northern Finland, said: "There are large numbers of foreign business men there who do not submit to Finnish law." Who these foreign business men are who unceremoniously rule the roost in northern Finland, is patent to all.

The line dividing northern Finland from the rest of the country has virtually become a state frontier. The German forces allow no one to enter the northern part of Finland without a special permit from the German military authorities or the German mission in Helsinki. Protected by this cordon, the German "comrades-in-arms" of the Finns are freely pillaging northern Finland.

The Germans are rapaciously exploiting the nickel mines. They are exterminating the forest resources of northern Finland, exporting timber and building material to Germany. The Hitlerites make wide use of forced labor of Finnish men and women sent there by the Finnish government from the central and southern regions of the country.

"Under the guise of a labor mobilization," stated Kaukinen, of the 22nd Finnish Regiment, now a war prisoner, "many old men, adolescents, invalids and women are forced to work for the Germans. The Germans beat them and generally treat them like slaves."

By systematic requisitions the Germans plunder the peasants in northern Finland and deprive them of everything, even of seed. German troops look upon the private and State property of the Finns as their legitimate prey. Without a qualm of conscience they rob peasants of hay, oats and cattle—in fact, of everything they can lay their hands on. Locked doors are no bars to the Hitlerite bandits. They break down doors or tear down roofs, and if a Finnish peasant dares protest they beat him up or even shoot him.

"Our people often say," stated Finnish war prisoner Mianrike, "that the German troops are not an army, but a gang of highwaymen. They rob and plunder the civilian population like marauders. In the villages near the town of Oulu, without presenting any documents to justify their action, they took the cattle, slaughtered them on the spot and carried them off in trucks. When the Germans enter a village it becomes silent and deserted; all the inhabitants lock their doors and hide."

In northern Finland the Germans put into circulation counterfeit Finnish money to a total of many million marks. The result was that the Finnish mark in northern Finland fell to half the value of the already depreciated mark in the rest of the country. The unbridled brutality of the Gestapo and SS troops, and the outrages against women supplement the picture of German sway in northern Finland.

But even in the southern part of Finland the Finnish government does not enjoy full authority. As a matter of fact, having voluntarily surrendered power to the Germans in northern Finland, the Finnish government ceased to be master in the southern half of its own house. The position there differs only in the fact that German domination is veiled by the fig-leaf of Finnish rule, and the destruction of Finnish resources is carried out by the Germans not directly, but through the hand of their vassals. This form of rule suits the Germans for the time being. It enables them to fool the Finnish people with the fiction of independence, and facilitates their depredations on the human and material resources of the country.

The Finnish government has placed the whole country at the service of Hitler Germany. The most remarkable thing in all this is the fact that the

forces the Germans have in Finland are relatively small, and they are incapable of imposing their will upon the Finns by armed force. The German forces in northern Finland—General Dietl's so-called Lapland army—today consist only of seven divisions, including two Austrian divisions.

Decimated in action against the Red Army and demoralized by robbery and violence against the Finnish population, the seven German divisions rivetted at that point by Soviet troops cannot offer any serious threat to the rest of Finland. More, the position on the Soviet-German front makes it impossible for the Germans to increase their forces in Finland. German divisions are being transferred to the Soviet-German front not only from Western and Southeastern, but also from Northern Europe, in particular from Norway and Denmark.

The Finnish government is fully aware of this. Nor can it fail to see that the Soviet terms offered Finland the opportunity to restore her lost independence by ejecting the German troops and discontinuing hostilities. But the whole trouble is that the present Finnish government does not want to drive the German troops out of Finland. It does not want to restore peaceful relations. It prefers to have its country remain a vassal of Hitler Germany.

Guerrilla Major General Kovpak

Following the failure of their offer of 500,000 marks for the head of Sidor Kovpak, the Ukrainian guerrilla chief, the Germans put up the following notice in occupied towns and villages: "He who apprehends guerrilla commander Kovpak and delivers him to the commandant will be paid by the bank gold equal to the weight of the head of this guerrilla chief."

Kovpak, who is 62, fought as a guerrilla during the Civil War. In this war, beginning with only a few dozen men, he has built up a full-sized army with cavalry, tanks, artillery and mortar units. In May, 1942, he was made a Hero of the Soviet Union, and a year later was promoted to the rank of Major General.

The remarkable scope of his activities may be judged from the results of one of his engagements with the enemy. To protect their communications from Kovpak's guerrillas, the Germans brought up large forces of infantry supported by aircraft, tanks

and artillery. Planes bombed every "suspicious" objective, from villages to trappers' huts. Then the German heavy guns gave the forest a 48-hour artillery preparation, before the infantry attacked.

When the German tommy gunners arrived at the edge of the forest they found a notice nailed to a tree. It read: "We've gone. We'll lick you somewhere else."

True to their word, the guerrillas struck at this punitive expedition from another direction and killed 1,300 Germans. While this operation was in progress other detachments of Kovpak's men derailed 11 enemy locomotives and wrecked 286 wagons laden with troops and munitions.

Three German regiments and two Magyar regiments were wandering over the countryside, when suddenly the guerrillas they were looking for struck in their rear. Five hundred of the enemy were killed and 2,000 wounded in the battle that followed.

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Beyond the Prut River

By B. Polevoi

Botosani, one of the few big towns in northern Rumania, was very lucky. The line of the front passed through it quickly; the remnants of German and Rumanian divisions retreating to the Carpathians in such haste had no time to burn the town, to sack it or to drive off its population by force and by deceit, as they had done elsewhere.

And now, finding itself far behind the firing-line and forgetful of war, Botosani continues its busy

and turbulent life, filled with striking contradictions and wild contrasts. Janitors come out every morning to sweep the flagstone pavements, while gardeners wielding huge shears prune the beech and ash trees lining the streets. The power plant provides electricity for the homes and factories, although few of the latter are working to full capacity.

In the evenings the plaintive tolling of bells stirs the air. Services are going on in the churches. Girls



Soviet artillery crew opening fire on enemy positions

who wear bright kerchiefs over their high head-dresses and spare neither powder nor rouge to brighten their pale, sickly faces, and mothers with infants in arms or in perambulators, stroll on the sunny side of the streets. Vendors are busy selling cider. Wherever you turn you see dark, importunate boys sitting on the pavement with brushes and polishing cloths. There are so many of them you are likely to get the impression the inhabitants of Botosani do nothing but polish their shoes from morning till night.

These details are not very significant, of course, but they show that the coming of the Red Army has not disrupted the usual flow of life in the town and that its inhabitants have again taken up their usual occupations.

I remember that the first Rumanian peasant I met beyond the Prut astonished me by the strange contrast in his attire. He was barefoot and wore a soft hat. It was cold then and snow was still lying in the gullies. In the town, the contrasts are still more striking. On the outskirts tiny houses cling to one another along the ravines. They are so small, old and crooked one wonders how they manage to withstand the first blast of wind that comes along.

In the center of the town the boyars' homes, both the old, fussily ornamented ones and the newer variety built like flat concrete boxes covered with white or yellow paint, are set deep in gardens and walled-off from the noise and dust of the streets. On the outskirts it is difficult to get past the perpetual lakes of mud, even now when the weather is hot. Here slop pails are emptied right into the street, and half-naked children sit in the garbage playing with mangy and skinny dogs.

On the main street the pavement is washed with a wet mop. In our hotel we were met by an elderly porter wearing a long, old-fashioned frock coat and a high "Oscar Wilde" collar. But the room had so many bedbugs and cockroaches we had difficult going to sleep even after a long and tiring journey.

The list of these contrasts may be continued indefinitely. They are encountered at every turn. Our officers and men—Soviet people and therefore eager for everything new—shake their heads as they be-

come acquainted with life in this country and observe the wild contrasts—from dreadful poverty to ridiculous attempts to conceal it, to make everything seem "fit and proper."

However, this is none of our business. Every action of the Red Army emphasizes its desire to keep out of Rumanian affairs. In Botosani I met many representatives of the Rumanian intelligentsia. On Stefan Ivanescu, physician of the town hospital; Peter Robiu, municipal engineer; Father Ion, of the Church of Saint Genevieve, and all the others with whom I talked, are astonished and pleasantly surprised by the high discipline and irreproachable conduct of Soviet troops. As soon as the Red Army entered a town, perfect order was established. Not a single scandal, not a single street incident, has been reported.

When German units were quartered in the town, firing and screaming went on throughout the night. Soldiers used to break into houses and seize anything that caught their fancy.

"Your troops are acting in perfect keeping with the statement of your Minister of Foreign Affairs, which I read in one of the leaflets. Their conduct is beyond all reproach," said Doctor Ivanescu.

But the feelings of the population in regard to the Red Army are not expressed in words alone. They find expression in everything: in the way girls standing on the pavements wave their handkerchiefs to passing Soviet troops; in the deep respect with which the inhabitants greet our officers and the eagerness with which they invite us to their tables in the cafes. Finally the nature of these feelings is indicated by the great interest aroused by Soviet movies and broadcasts in Rumania.

The Germans are hated here. Their behavior is being recalled with indignation. The word "German" has become a symbol of insolence, cruelty and boorishness, a synonym for banditry and brigandage.

We took off in the late afternoon and circled above Botosani before leaving. The houses looked like white dots among the pale green trees, and even from above you could see the bustle in the streets lit by the oblique rays of the warm spring sun.

Front-Line Newspaper Decorated

In commemoration of its 25th Anniversary and for its successful work in furthering the military, political and cultural education of Red Army personnel at the front, *Krasnaya Armiya* (Red Army), the newspaper of the First Byelorussian Front, has been awarded the Order of the Red Banner by a decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. *Krasnaya Armiya* is frequently printed under fire.

Smolensk Rebuilds Its Bridge

More than 50,000 people were present at the opening of the rebuilt bridge over the Dnieper, connecting the center of Smolensk with the far bank of the river. When the Germans retreated from the town in the autumn of 1943 they blew up all the bridges. Communications were maintained by a temporary bridge until construction of the new one was completed.

STATEMENT OF EXTRAORDINARY STATE COMMITTEE

*on the ascertaining and investigation of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders and their associates,
and the damages caused by them to citizens, collective farms, public organizations,
State enterprises and institutions of the USSR*

Directives and Orders of Hitlerite Government and German Military Command Concerning Extermination of Soviet Prisoners of War and Civilians

1. Secret Hitlerite Directives Concerning the Extermination of Soviet People

Even before the treacherous attack on the Soviet Union the criminal Hitlerite government and the High Command of the German army had thoroughly elaborated plans for the monstrous extermination of the advanced part of the Soviet people and for the deportation of millions of Soviet citizens to penal servitude in Germany.

The statements on German-fascist crimes committed in the towns of Krasnodar, Stavropol, Orel, Kaliningrad, Smolensk and Kiev, which have been published by the Extraordinary State Committee, as well as special investigations carried out by members of the Committee who visited the scene of the crimes, have revealed the existence of an elaborate system of elaborate mass extermination by the German invaders of prisoners of war and Soviet civilians.

According to preliminary data alone, recorded by the Extraordinary State Committee, the German-fascist invaders have murdered, gassed in "murder pits" or tortured to death about two million persons in occupied Soviet districts—old men, women and children, peaceful Soviet citizens, as well as a large number of prisoners of war, officers and men of the Red Army.

The Extraordinary State Committee has now come into possession of German documents seized by organs of the Soviet Government in Kiev. These documents were discovered in a safe on the premises where the Gestapo was quartered during the German occupation. They contain operational orders of the High Command of the German army, of the Reichsminister of Occupied Eastern Regions, of the Chief of Security Police and SD, as well as other documents which set forth the procedure for "purging" camps for Soviet prisoners of war and civilians of "suspicious characters." It is evident from these documents that as the sole method of "purging" the German-fascist authorities practiced murder on an appalling scale, figuring in the documents under the names of "executions," "special regime," "liquidation," "special measures" and "purging measures."

These documents date back to the early months of the German invasion of the USSR—the period from July to December, 1941. Their importance is shown by the fact that all of them are stamped: "Confidential, of State importance," "Confidential, Document of Command."

In order to avert the danger that the Red Army might seize these documents, which expose the crimes of the German-fascist headsmen and their bloodthirsty plans for the physical extermination of the Russian population, operational order No. 14 of the Chief of German Police said: "I especially enjoin you that operational orders Nos. 8 and 14, as well as supplementary instructions relating thereto, be immediately destroyed in case of danger."

An order from the headquarters of the High Command of the German army, No. 11, dated October 7, 1941, emphasized: "Circulation of this order in writing (even in excerpts) is forbidden. District Kommandants for affairs relating to war prisoners must be informed orally of its contents."

2. Preparations for Mass Extermination of Soviet Prisoners of War and Civilians

The documents discovered reveal that, even before their attack on the USSR, the Hitlerite headsmen drew up lists, compiled investigation directories and collected the necessary information about leading Soviet workers who, according to their bloodthirsty plans, were to be destroyed. Thus they prepared a "Special Investigation Directory for the USSR," a "German Investigation Directory," "Lists for Establishing the Whereabouts of Persons" and other similar "investigation directories and lists" which were to facilitate for the Hitlerite murderers the extermination of the advanced part of the population of the USSR.

The document entitled "Supplement No. 2 to Operational Order No. 8 of Chief of Security Police and SD" datelined "Berlin, July 17, 1941," and signed by Heydrich, who at that time was acting as Himmler's deputy, points out, however, that the lists and investigation directories are inadequate, and emphasizes that the initiative of the executors of murder must

not be restricted. The document says: "It is impossible to provide the squads with assistance in carrying out their tasks. The 'German Investigation Directory,' the 'Lists for Establishing the Whereabouts of Persons,' the 'Special Investigation Directory for the USSR' will prove useful only in a few cases. The 'Special Investigation Directory for the USSR' is inadequate because only an insignificant part of the Soviet Russians who are to be considered dangerous have been included."

After the bandit invasion of the USSR and the occupation of a number of Soviet districts, the Hitlerites embarked on the systematic extermination of the Soviet population, and especially of its advanced and most active sections, irrespective of the lists they had at their disposal. For the execution of their criminal plans, the German invaders set up "Sonderkommando" (special squads) in permanent and distribution camps for war prisoners set up at that time on German territory, in the so-called Polish "governor-generalship" and on occupied Soviet territory.

Operational order No. 8 of the Chief of Security Police and SD datelined "Berlin, July 17, 1941, B. No. 21 B-41 GRS-4 A 1 C," signed by Heydrich, says: "I order that a squad composed of one SS fuehrer and four to six privates be detailed at once for war prisoners' camps located on that territory. Should additional forces prove necessary for the execution of fixed tasks, this should be reported to me at once. . . . To facilitate the purge, a liaison fuehrer is to be placed at the disposal of the Chief of Prisoner of War Camps in the First Military Area of Eastern Prussia—Major General von Hindenburg—and of the Chief of Prisoner of War Camps in the Governor-generalship—Lieutenant General Herrgott in Keltse.

"The following persons should be immediately detailed as liaison fuehrers: (a) Kriminalrat Schieffer of State Police Department of Stettin—to be placed at the disposal of Major General von Hindenburg in Koenigsberg (Prussia); (b) Kriminal Kommissar Raschwitz, with the Chief of Security Police and SD in Cracow, to be placed at the disposal of Lieutenant General Herrgott in Keltse. . . . It will be the duty of these liaison fuehrers, especially when operations begin, to direct the activities of squads in accordance with these instructions, and also to insure normal relations with military organs."

The procedure for the formation of the "Sonderkommando" is set forth in Supplement No. 1 to operational order No. 14 of the Chief of Security Police and SD (marked "Confidential, of State importance, copy number 15"), and datelined "Berlin, October 29, 1941": "The formation of Sonderkommando, Security Police and SD is carried out in accordance with the agreement dated October 7, 1941, between the Chief of Security Police and SD and the High Command of the armed forces. The Kommando act on a basis of special powers and independently, in

accordance with general instructions given to them, within the framework of the camp regime. Naturally, Kommando maintain close contact with camp commandants and officers of the counter-espionage department."

This was a second explanation of instructions issued earlier, on July 17, 1941.

In its turn, the High Command of the German army also pointed out in Supplement No. 2 to the order dated October 7, 1941: "1 . . . in the distribution camps of the army rear, Sonderkommando of Security Police and SD, for the exposure of unreliable elements, act on their own responsibility, in accordance with the attached instructions. 2. By agreement with the Chief of Security Police and SD, the activities of the Sonderkommando are to be regulated in the following manner: (a) Sonderkommando set up for fulfillment of these tasks are subordinated to the delegate of the Chief of Security Police and SD with commanders of the army rear in accordance with the agreement of April 28, 1941, circulated with letter 'A'. . . .

"In those camps in the army rear where it is impossible to effect sifting with the aid of Sonderkommando, instructions which existed heretofore remain valid on the personal responsibility of the commandant. With the appearance of the Sonderkommando, the exposure of unreliable elements becomes their exclusive task."

The order of the Chief of Security Police and SD dated October 29, 1941 on the organization of Sonderkommando was circulated to operational groups in Krasnogvardeisk, Smolensk, Kiev, Nikolayev and "by way of information," to Riga, Mogilev and Krivoi Rog. It should also be pointed out that during their offensive against Moscow the Hitlerites set up in Smolensk a special "Moscow Sonderkommando" which was to engage in massacres of Moscow people.

The tasks entrusted to the "Sonderkommando" are indicated in the operational instructions attached to the order of the Chief of Security Police and SD No. 8, datelined "Berlin, July 17, 1941," which, under the pretext of "the sifting of civilians and suspicious war prisoners captured in the eastern campaign" points out that "the special circumstances of the eastern campaign necessitate special measures, which must be carried out on your own responsibility, irrespective of any bureaucratic or administrative influences."

As established by documents, the "Sonderkommando" were charged with the task of "sifting," that is, exposing "unreliable elements," which were to be destroyed subsequently. In this connection, a supplement to Heydrich's operational order No. 8 of July 17, 1941, pointed out that "therefore, inmates of camps for Russians should be divided within the

camps in accordance with the following categories:
 (1) civilians; (2) soldiers (including those who have obviously donned mufti); (3) politically harmful elements from among persons of the first and second categories . . .; (4) persons of the first and second categories who deserve confidence and therefore can be used in the rehabilitation of occupied districts; (5) national groups among war prisoners and civilians."

3. Plans for the Extermination of Leading Soviet Workers and Soviet Intelligentsia

The civilian population of the districts of the USSR temporarily captured by the German-fascist invaders,



A Soviet citizen about to be shot by a German soldier

(Photo found on a Nazi taken prisoner in the Kiev Region)

Radiophoto

is repeatedly reported, was confined in camps along with prisoners of war, in violation of all existing laws and usage relating to the conduct of war. The inhuman regime instituted by the Hitlerite headmen for war prisoners was extended also to Soviet civilians. In this respect note should be made of the so-called "executions."

From the very outset the Hitlerites established numerous categories of "suspicious characters" liable to be "executed." In the first of these categories the Hitlerites placed leading and active Soviet workers.

Supplement No. 1 to operational order No. 14 of the Chief of Security Police, dated October 29, 1941, and signed by Heydrich, says on this subject: "In the first place it is necessary to locate: (1) all prominent State and Party functionaries, especially professional revolutionaries; (2) Comintern workers; (3) all influential workers of the German Communist organization in USSR and organizations affiliated with its central committee, regional and district organizations; (4) all People's Commissars and their deputies; (5) all former Red Army political commissars; (6) leading workers of State institutions of the central and middle links; (7) leading workers in economic life; (8) Soviet Russian intellectuals and Jews, insofar as this concerns professional revolutionaries or political workers, writers, editors, Comintern workers and others."

The "Supplement of Directives for Squads of Security Police and SD," signed by Heydrich and dated "Berlin, July 17, 1941," directly notes the necessity of applying similar measures not only to the Russian people, but also to Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Azerbaijanians and Armenians.

The Hitlerites effected bloody massacres also of those Ukrainian nationalists whom Hitler at first used for the struggle against the Soviet Union, and then disposed of in the basest and most perfidious manner, under the pretext that the "Banderites" were "preparing an uprising."

For example, the instructions to operational squad Z-5 of the Security Police and SD No. 12-41 of November 25, 1941, stamped "Confidential, of State Importance," say with reference to the Ukrainian nationalists headed by Bandera: "All active participants in the Bandera movement must be immediately arrested and liquidated quietly after thorough questioning, ostensibly as robbers. . . . This document after it has been read must be destroyed at once by the command of the squad." (The last sentence was underscored in the original).

The ruling Hitlerite clique systematically checked up on the fulfillment of its instructions for the exposure of "suspicious characters," and demanded that a strict and complete account be kept of them.

Supplement No. 2 to operational order No. 8 of the Chief of Security Police and SD strictly prescribed: "Every week the chief of each operational squad submits to the Chief Administration of Reich Security a brief dispatch by wire or express letter. This dispatch must contain: (1) A brief report on activities for the past week; (2) the number of persons who should be considered finally as suspicious (it is sufficient to give a figure only). . . ."

It is evident from the documents that those "executions" were nothing but the extermination of Soviet people, who were executed en masse by the German-fascist headsmen.

4. Attempts of the German-fascist Murderers to Conceal Their Crimes

While cruelly and inhumanly disposing of Soviet people who fell into the hands of the German-fascist beasts, the German authorities carefully strove to conceal their crimes by throwing a thick veil of secrecy over them. This is proven by numerous orders of the German military command and the German police.

The operational order of the Chief of Security Police and SD No. 8 of July 17, 1941, points out in this connection: "Executions should not be carried out in the camp itself or in its immediate proximity. They are secret, and should be effected as unnoticeably as possible."

Further, supplement No. 2 to the same order says: "Executions should not be carried out in the camp, or in the immediate neighborhood of the camp. If camps in the governor-generalship are located in immediate proximity to the frontier, then whenever possible war prisoners should be taken to former Soviet districts for special treatment. If executions are found necessary as a result of violation of camp discipline, then the chief of the operation squad should apply to the camp Kommandant."

Supplement No. 2 to order No. 11, issued by the headquarters of the Chief Command of the German army, dated October 7, 1941, says: "The activities of the Sonderkommando with the permission of commanders of army rear (District Kommandants for Prisoners of War Affairs) should be conducted in such a manner that the sifting takes place as unnoticeably as possible, when liquidation should be effected without delay, and at such distance from the camps and inhabited localities as to keep it concealed from the rest of the war prisoners and population."

In supplement No. 1 to operational order No. 14 of the Chief of Security Police and SD, datelined "Berlin, October 29, 1941, No. 21 B-41. RS-4A 1C. Confidential, of State Importance," the following "procedure" for conducting "executions" is recommended: "The chiefs of operational groups pass decisions concerning executions on their own responsibility, and issue corresponding instructions to the Sonderkommando. The Kommando should demand from the camp authorities that prisoners be turned over to them in order to carry out measures prescribed by the present instructions. The High Command of the army has given instructions to Kommandants' officers concerning the fulfillment of such demands. Executions should be effected where they cannot be observed, in convenient places, and in any case not in the camp itself or in its immediate prox-

imity. It is necessary to see to it that bodies are buried immediately and in a proper way."

It is pointed out once more in the supplement to instructions (signed by Heydrich) for Security Police and SD squads sent to prisoner of war camps: "Lastly, I point out again that executions should under no circumstances be conducted in the camp itself, or in its immediate proximity."

Eventually the "executions" assumed such extensive proportions that, as is known from previous statements of the Extraordinary Committee, the Hitlerites began to conduct them in camps and near camps. Subsequently, when the Red Army began to clear the temporarily occupied territories of the Soviet Union of the German-fascist hordes, and when the Soviet authorities began to expose the monstrous crimes of the fascist scoundrels, and to discover numerous graves of Soviet citizens, officers and men tortured to death by the fascists, the German command took urgent steps to conceal and destroy traces of their crimes. For this purpose, it everywhere organized excavations of graves and cremation of bodies buried in those graves.

The special order of the Obersturmfuehrer, datelined "Rovno, August 3, 1943, 4 AE—No. 35-43," addressed to the regional gendarmerie chief in Kamen-Kashirsk, demanded that "the location and number of (common) graves of people against whom special reprisals were taken be reported immediately with regard to the given region."

Among the documents discovered in the Gestapo building in the Rovno Region were reports on the fulfillment of the above order, listing about 200 places where such graves were registered. It is evident from this list that the German-fascist headsmen chose chiefly out-of-the-way places, which outsiders would find it hard to reach, as sites for the graves in which they buried their victims. Some of the sites were:

78. Shepetovka, in the forest—three graves. 79. Slavuta, in the gravel pits—one grave. 80. Slavuta, in the forest—one grave. 121. Gorokhov, one kilometer south of Gorokhov, 100 meters from road to Dreshkopol—one grave. Town cemetery, in western corner, right site—one grave. In brick clay pit, south of Gorokhov—one grave. 123. Berestechko, in courtyard of gendarmerie barracks approximately 500 meters north of State farm Narenchin—one grave. 124. Lokachi, one kilometer south of town, in brick clay pit—one grave. 125. Kizelin, approximately one kilometer northwest of Kizelin near ruins of building—one grave.

140. Kovel, Nagornaya street, in sand pit 400 meters beyond northern barracks—one grave. Nagornaya street, northeast of town, in sand pit on right side of road—one grave. Vladimirskaia street near Jewish cemetery—one grave. In prison garden—

one grave. Ploshchadnaya street near old cemetery—one grave. 142. Ratno, three kilometers east of town, near windmill—one grave. 143. Krymay, two kilometers northeast, near lake—one grave. 144. Matseyev, chalk pit 200 meters beyond Security Police barracks—one grave. 145. Goloby, in forest four kilometers northwest of town—one grave. 146. Melnitsa, two kilometers west of Melnitsa, near sand pit—one grave. 147. Manevichi, two and one-half kilometers west of town in sand mound—one grave. 149. Ossarani, five kilometers northwest of village in sand pit—one grave.

At the end of the list it is noted: "All graves are listed, including those left by teams which worked here previously."



Mutilated body of a Red Army man found in liberated village. The Germans had beaten him to death with blows of rifle butts

Tens of thousands of bodies of war prisoners and Soviet civilians shot or tortured to death by the German headsmen were buried in Kharkov, Kiev, Rovno, and in a number of other towns and districts on the road of retreat of the Hitlerite army. The Hitlerite ruling clique demanded reports from the immediate performers of "executions," in order to check on the exact fulfillment of their directives concerning the mass extermination of Soviet war prisoners and civilians.

In supplement No. 2 of his operational order No. 8, the Chief of Security Police and SD demanded of the Sonderkommando chiefs: "Squads must keep records concerning reprisals. These records are to contain the following information: ordinal number, surname and name, time and place of birth, military rank, occupation, last residence, reason for reprisal, time and place of reprisal."

A further order said that "such reports in the way of information should as a rule be presented to the First Section of the Fourth Department of the Chief Administration of Reichs Security (4A1)." In pursuance of this directive, operation squad C-5 of the Security Police and SD points out: "At the end

of every month a report is to be submitted here on the activities of SD squads in permanent prisoner of war camps. The number of liquidations is to be reported for each nationality separately, in accordance with directives given in instructions."

How the directives were fulfilled is evident from the report of operation squad No. 7 (from obersturmbannfuehrer Lipper to brigadefuehrer "Doctor" Thomas) in Vinnitsa, dated December 4, 1941. This report points out that after the so-called "sifting" of the camp in Vinnitsa there were only 25 persons left who could be classed as "suspicious characters." "This limited number," the report says, "is due to the fact that every day local organs in contact with Kommandants or the counter-espionage officers concerned took the necessary measures against the negative element in permanent prisoner of war camps."

Thus, in addition to mass executions conducted by the specially created "Sonderkommando," the systematic extermination of Soviet people was widely practiced by Kommandants and squads under them in camps for Soviet war prisoners.

5. The Hitlerites Criminally Trample Upon the Provisions of International Law and Usage in the Conduct of War

Technically, the Hitlerite bandits have never declared their renunciation of the international rules of warfare, embodied in various international conventions and demanding humane treatment for prisoners of war. Moreover, in 1934 the Hitlerite government even ratified the Geneva Convention of 1929 "on the maintenance of war prisoners." But that this adherence by the Hitlerite government to international conventions on war prisoners was intended to deceive world public opinion has been corroborated since the beginning of the present war, and especially since Hitlerite Germany's base attack upon the USSR.

Supplement No. 1 to operational order No. 14 issued by the Chief of Security Police and SD cynically states that "the Bolshevik soldier has lost the right to be treated as an honest soldier, and in accordance with the Geneva Convention."

Thus, the Hitlerite bandits try to cover up their monstrous crimes against Soviet war prisoners by cynical allegations that universally accepted rules for the treatment of war prisoners are inapplicable to Soviet people. Documents have also established that "executions" and "purging measures," that is, mass exterminations, were envisaged in the criminal plans of the German-fascist command and police also in regard to Polish intellectuals.

Operational order No. 2 of the Chief of Security Police and SD, datelined "Berlin, July 1, 1941," reveals this beyond any doubt. It says: "Poles living in newly-occupied regions, especially on the territory

of former Poland will, on the basis of their experience, maintain an anti-Communist as well as an anti-Semitic attitude. Therefore naturally at first" (underscored by Extraordinary Committee) "Poles who share such sentiments should not be subjected to purging measures. As regards Polish intellectuals, etc., inasmuch as in each case circumstances will not require immediate measures, a decision may be taken later."

As has already been established, such decisions were taken on many occasions. Such "purging measures," as is well known, were actually applied by German murderers to Polish officers in the Katyn Forest.

6. The Hitlerite Government and German Military Command—Organizers of Monstrous Crimes—Must Face Severe Responsibility!

All the above secret orders and instructions of the German military command and police convincingly reveal the Hitlerites' thoroughly planned system for the mass extermination of Soviet people by means of machinery especially organized for these monstrous criminal aims—all kinds of "operational squads," "Sonderkommando," special "sifting" measures, "executions," "liquidations," which were nothing but massacres of Soviet war prisoners and civilians.

These orders and instructions reveal that:

(1) In the very first months of the war against the USSR the German-fascist invaders embarked on mass extermination of the civilian population of the USSR, as well as of captured Red Army officers and men.

(2) The mass extermination of the population and war prisoners was ordered by organs of Security Police and the High Command of the German armed forces and conducted by them in coordination.

(3) "Operational" and "special squads" (Sonderkommando), empowered to make independent decisions on shooting, were formed for the actual conduct of "executions."

(4) The Germans strove to carry out the shooting of the war prisoners and civilians in secrecy, so that the rest of the war prisoners and the civilian population would know nothing of them.

(5) In some cases Soviet war prisoners were ordered to be taken to German-occupied territory of the Soviet Union, especially for shooting.

Thus, the published documents reveal that directives concerning the deliberate extermination of war prisoners and Soviet civilians emanated from Berlin,

from the German government and the German High Command, from the Reichsminister of the Occupied Eastern Regions, from the Chief of Security Police and SD and other members of the Hitlerite gang of criminals.

On the basis of the material made public in the present statement, and also on the basis of documentary materials published earlier by the Committee on the results of the investigation of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders in Soviet districts liberated from German occupation, the Extraordinary State Committee has established that:

(1) The direct organizers and leaders in the mass extermination of Soviet war prisoners and civilians are: Chief of Prisoner of War Camps of the First Military Area of Eastern Prussia, Major General von Hindenburg; Chief of Prisoner of War Camps in the "Governor-generalship," Lieutenant General Herrgott; Liaison Officers Kriminalrat Schieffer and Kriminal Kommissar Raschwitz.

(2) The direct executors of this monstrous extermination of Soviet people were the personnel of the Sonderkommando, operational squads, Kommandants, and personnel of Kommandants' offices, personnel in charge of camps, as well as their accomplices.

All of them must pay a severe penalty for the crimes they have committed against the Soviet people.

(The Soviet newspapers published photostatic copies of the original documents quoted in the statement of the Extraordinary State Committee, in particular of the order No. 14 of the Chief of Security Police dated October 29, 1941; excerpts from supplement No. 1 to operational order No. 14 of the Chief of Security Police, dated October 29, 1941; the directive of operational squad C-5 of Security Police and SD, No. 1241, dated November 25, 1941).

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NEW MILESTONE IN DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK FRIENDSHIP

The following editorial appeared in IZVESTIA on May 9:

An agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic on relations between the Soviet Commander-in-Chief and the Czechoslovak Administration after the entry of Soviet troops to the territory of Czechoslovakia, was signed in London yesterday.

As is already known, negotiations on the conclusion of an agreement in the event of the entry of Soviet (Allied) troops to the territory of Czechoslovakia were started on the initiative of the Czechoslovak Government, which had proposed the draft of such an agreement. The main feature of the negotiations between the representatives of the Soviet and Czechoslovak Governments which resulted in the conclusion of this agreement was the fact that the wishes of the



A new school in Stalinabad, capital of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic

Czechoslovak democratic government were given full consideration by the Soviet Government, and in view of this the draft did not require any amendments or corrections.

It should be noted in this connection that Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Government Hubert Ripka, in his statement made yesterday in London, expressed profound satisfaction at the attitude displayed by the Soviet Government toward the wishes of the Czechs and toward Czech laws in the signing of the pact.

By way of consultation, the draft of the Soviet-Czechoslovak agreement was conveyed to the British and American Governments. The Government of the United States of America, and subsequently also the British Government, advised the Government of the USSR that they had no objections to the proposed draft, after which the agreement was signed in London with the Czechoslovak Government by Soviet Ambassador Lebedev and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia Hubert Ripka.

The Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement, which became effective immediately after it was signed, is a new milestone on the road of development of friendly relations between the USSR and Czechoslovakia. It is well known that the two countries are bound by many years of traditional friendship, which grew stronger with every year, both under conditions of peaceful development and in the trials of war against Hitlerite Germany and her satellites. It was this traditional friendship which brought forth the Treaty of Mutual Assistance on May 16, 1935, the Treaty of Joint Struggle Against Germany on July 18, 1941, and the Treaty on Friendship of December 12, 1943, which laid a stable foundation for postwar collaboration of the Soviet and Czechoslovak peoples.

As is evident from the published text, the new agreement is in perfect accord with the treaty of December 12, 1943. It is based upon the principle of respect for the independence and sovereignty of the Czechoslovak Republic, which were violated by the notorious Munich agreement in 1938 and then were brutally trampled down by German military force. The Soviet Union never recognized the Munich decisions. When German troops invaded Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Government characterized that invasion as an act of brigandage. Now that, as a result of the successful offensive, Red Army troops have emerged on the State frontier between the USSR and Czechoslovakia, the prospect of the ejection of the German invaders by the forces of Soviet troops and of the restitution of the state independence of Czechoslovakia, has drawn nearer.

In his May Day Order, Stalin pointed out that in pursuing the enemy, "we must deliver from German

bondage our brothers, the Poles and Czechoslovaks, and others allied with us, the peoples of Western Europe which are under the heel of Hitlerite Germany."

Thus the Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement was born from the historic successes of the Red Army. It was these successes that afforded the Czechoslovak people the real prospect and close possibility of its liberation from Hitlerite slavery, with the aid of the troops of its Soviet ally.

The problem of the relations between the Command of the Armed Forces of the Allies and the National Administration after the entry of Allied troops to the territory of one or another country in Europe, forms the subject of lively comment in the world press. The Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement is the first example of the solution of this problem through an agreement between the Allied Governments. The British magazine *Spectator* called the concluded agreement a "valuable example for similar agreements elsewhere." With especial satisfaction the world press emphasizes that, as the *Reynolds News* has written, the agreement provides for the "complete restoration of Czechoslovak authority on the territory of the country immediately after it is liberated by the advancing Red Army."

Indeed, the agreement invests the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet (Allied) troops with authority and responsibility on Czechoslovak territory only in the zone of military operations and only in matters relating to the conduct of the war (Clause One). As soon as any part of the liberated territory ceases to be a zone of direct war operations, the Czechoslovak Government shall fully assume the power of administration of public affairs and shall render the Soviet (Allied) Commander-in-Chief every assistance through its civil and military organs (Clause Six).

Undoubtedly the prospect of the early liberation of Czechoslovakia from the German-fascist yoke and of the restoration of the state independence of the Czechoslovak Republic will inspire the Czechoslovak people to the struggle for the expulsion of the German invaders, which will prove the best assistance to the Red Army in its task of liberation. As the newspaper *The Czechoslovak* writes, the Czechoslovak people "will receive with sincere joy and the greatest satisfaction the news of the conclusion of an agreement between the Czechoslovak and Soviet Governments, solving as it does all the most important and urgent problems which will confront us after the entry of the Allied Red Army to the state territory of Czechoslovakia."

Noting the historical greatness of the moment when, in the words of this newspaper, Soviet troops

carry freedom to the much-suffering Czechoslovak people, *The Czechoslovak* continues:

"The Czechoslovak people expresses gratitude to the fraternal peoples of the USSR and its great Premier, Marshal Stalin, also to leaders of Soviet foreign policy for their friendship. . . . The Czechoslovak people will never forget the diplomatic, moral and political support which the USSR rendered it in its struggle for freedom. It will similarly never forget the close cooperation as expressed in the agreement of July 18, 1941. This cooperation has been cemented by blood shed jointly on many battlefields and by the fraternal love with which the Soviet people has surrounded the Czechoslovak Brigade which fights on the side of the heroic Red Army."

The Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement has caused extensive favorable comment in a number of countries, including the non-belligerents. Thus the Turkish newspaper *La Turquie* notes the significance of the new Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement in the following words: "The enormous prestige which the Russians have won by their fabulous heroism in the struggle against the German forces has been doubled and trebled, thanks to their good faith in the problem of the recognition of the independence of the Allied countries they liberate. The USSR has proved that it recognizes the rights of other peoples more than anyone else."

The significance of the new Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement is great. It signifies the flourishing of friendly relations between the USSR and Czechoslovakia. It serves as new evidence of the consistent and based-on-principle policy of the Soviet Union toward the small states which fight together with the USSR, Great Britain and the United States of America against bandit German imperialism.

This agreement directly results from the Red Army's great mission of liberation. It accompanies the Soviet troops in their movement onward across the Carpathians to the places where they are awaited by much-suffering peoples groaning under the German-fascist yoke and where lies the road toward the lair of the Hitlerite beast.

To deliver the Allied peoples of Western Europe from German bondage, to finish off the German beast in his lair—such is the task of the anti-Hitler coalition headed by the great democratic powers, the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Great Britain. This task can be accomplished only by the common efforts of the Allied nations. The Soviet-Czechoslovak Agreement serves as an important contribution to the joint efforts of the democratic countries directed toward the earliest accomplishment of this historic task.

Sevastopol—City of Glory

By S. Sergeyev-Tsensky

Sergei Sergeyev-Tsensky, Soviet author, Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and Stalin Prize Winner, was born in 1876 and has been writing since the age of 20. Prior to the war he published SEVASTOPOL, a novel based on the defense of Sevastopol in the Crimean War of 1854-55. During the war he wrote BRUSILOV'S BREAK-THROUGH, centering round General Brusilov's offensive in the First World War.

* * *

Happiness after happiness has been won for us by the heroism of our troops this year and last. And now comes another—the entire Crimea is again ours—again Soviet territory. Perekop, Armyansk, Zhankoi, Kerch, Ishun, Feodosia, the Crimean capital—Simferopol, Evpatoria, Yalta . . . and now Sevastopol.

When we speak of the Crimea we become dreamers. The very name soothes our ear. We picture the slender aromatic dark-green cypresses, the pale foam breaking on long stretches of beach crowded

with bathers. We picture the beautiful rest homes and gardens . . . we hear the strains of orchestras faintly from afar. . . .

Steamers filled with joyous passengers draw up to the jetties. Booths along the shore are piled with luscious grapes. There is sunlight . . . warmth . . . and roses. One feels that no spot in the world is so wholesome and life-giving as the Crimea . . . its hills, its fertile steppe, its rich orchards and vineyards, its valleys with streams pouring from the mountain sides.

But this healing beauty, these fabulous riches, need a champion to guard them. And throughout its history Sevastopol has been such a champion. Sevastopol—a Greek word meaning "city of glory"—has become fully Russified. More than that, it has become a symbol of our martial glory . . . the glory of our naval forces, and still more of our land forces. There are many cities in the Soviet Union whose old names have been changed, but the name of Sevastopol will remain through the ages.

"What is the Crimea without Sevastopol?" asked Vice Admiral Kornilov of Prince Menshikov, when the latter despaired of holding Sevastopol against the enemy and withdrew his troops to Bakhchisarai to defend the rest of the Crimea. This was in 1854, at the beginning of the Crimean War.

And not only the Crimea, but the entire Russian Black Sea Coast, was able to live and flourish only because Sevastopol and its fleet stood guard over its peace and tranquility. Twice in its short existence—only a little more than a century and a half ago—our naval fortress has been besieged from land, and on both occasions only ruins fell into the hands of the enemy.

Sevastopol emerged a moral victor from the long struggles: nearly a year in 1854–55, and over eight months in this war.

The Hitlerites tried to stagger us with countless steel machines—tried to stagger us, who had known Borodino and Sevastopol! They did not know with what dignity our old Sevastopol heroes wore their silver medals and ribbons of St. George received for their part in the defense of Sevastopol in 1854–55.

They did not know the esteem and regard in which our people held these old men. They did not know what a great place was held in the hearts of our people by that sonorous and proud word—round as the disc of the sun—Sevastopol!

And that's where they blundered. They ignored our traditions, they forgot we were the grandsons of the old men decorated with silver medals and ribbons of St. George. They forgot it—and paid with the lives of 300,000 of their troops, a whole army, for the ruins of Sevastopol.

Then the standards of Sevastopol's defenders appeared amid the ruins of Stalingrad, where another 300,000 Hitlerites headed by Field Marshal von Paulus met an inglorious end. . . .

Then the standards of Sevastopol fluttered over the Don and Kharkov, over Orel and Kiev and the lands beyond the Dnieper, over Galicia and Rumania. . . .

And now they are back again on the shores of their native bays . . . these proud standards. And our pride has become our country's joy. We are home again!

AN INCOMPARABLE VICTORY

By Academician Eugene Tarle

Academician Tarle, noted Soviet historian and Stalin Prize Winner, is author of NAPOLEON IN RUSSIA and numerous other works, many of which deal with the history of Western Europe and particularly of France.

* * *

From the days of Catherine the Great, when Sevastopol was founded, this great Russian stronghold in the South whose name is written in letters of gold in the book of glory of the Russian people, has never experienced such a triumph as today. Sevastopol has been recovered from the despicable German horde, and together with the whole of the Crimea has been restored to Russia's possession.

After the Crimean War of 1854–55, some foreign publicists asked: "With what could the defense of Sevastopol be compared?" And they answered: "Sevastopol has covered itself with the same glory as legendary Troy in Homer's *Iliad*."

We may ask: What can compare with the defense of Sevastopol which we witnessed not so long ago, when sailors of the Black Sea Fleet and Red Army forces cut off from the entire world—the rest of the Crimea had already been captured by the enemy—held out for 250 days and nights under constant and

frightful fire, and left the city only when ordered to do so by the High Command?

The Sevastopol of our days has not only proved worthy of the immortal fame of the Sevastopol of the past, but has shown that the heroism of Russian sailors and Red Army men can withstand the enemy onslaught under conditions much harder than those obtaining during the first defense of Sevastopol in 1854–55.

Our pride mounts and Russia's rejoicing increases still further with the knowledge that the entire army of barbarians who tormented the Crimea for two years has been wiped out, and that the vile German and Rumanian horde paid dearly for the ruins of Sevastopol.

Stalingrad, Leningrad, Sevastopol! Centuries will pass, but these three names will forever be associated in the minds of the human race with the great epoch when Stalin, the Red Army, the Red Navy and the Red Air Force relentlessly and inexorably swept the infamous enemy from the Russian land, the Russian seas and the Russian sky.

We fervently salute the heroes who have liberated Sevastopol.

FIGHTING AUTHOR

By Ivan Maisky

The following review of Ilya Ehrenburg's book THE WAR (APRIL, 1942 TO MARCH, 1943)—published by the State Literary Publishing House of Moscow—recently appeared in IZVESTIA:

This little book with its plain blue cover will go down in history. And not only in the history of our literature, but also in the history of our great Patriotic War against Hitler Germany.

The book is a collection of 102 articles published at various times in our daily press. Every one of them, when it appeared, deeply stirred the reader. And it could not do otherwise. For, essentially speaking, these are not 102 articles but 102 beats of a great, warm and patriotic heart. They awakened a responsive echo among the masses of our people. They resound far beyond the borders of our country.

But if each of Ehrenburg's articles separately is a heart-beat, gathered together in one book they are a mighty tolling alarm bell. And when one peruses Ehrenburg's book, one feels that never did this bell sound so mightily, never did it strike so deeply into our souls, as in those grim days when the rabid fascist beast was driving frantically to Stalingrad. In those stern days Ehrenburg's words formed an integral and inseparable part of that bitter and heroic struggle which paved the way for our present victories. In this book are collected the articles which appeared precisely in that period. That is why they are so interesting and why there is every reason to believe they will find a place in history.

Ehrenburg can hate as strongly as he can love. The pages of the book are saturated with seething passion, like a stream of lava erupting from a volcano.

* * *

What does Ehrenburg love? In the first place, our country and our people.

"Have you seen a mighty spreading tree?" he asks the reader. "It was once a tiny sapling. It is very old, older than any of you. Its heart is encircled by rings: every ring is a year and their number is countless. Our Russia is a great tree. She originated in the disunited tribes, in the first feats of martial valor, in the first manuscript books. She has become a mighty power. . . ."

When speaking of the Patriotic War of the Soviet people against the Hitlerites, Ehrenburg discusses Russia's historic past. In one of his articles he writes:

"We are fighting for Russia, for the State welded by the labor of generations and sprinkled with the blood of generations; for the State which was born beside the Dnieper's bright waters, whose youth spoke in the assembly bell of Novgorod, and which

was built up devotedly from the time of Ivan Kalita to our days . . . How many centuries of effort were required before the Russia of forests and log cabins created granite-girt Leningrad! Only a great people could have built the Admiralty. Only a great people could have produced Leo Tolstoy. Only a great people could have opened the new era which began on October 25. . . ."



Ilya Ehrenburg

In another article Ehrenburg develops this thought.

"A future historian will begin his story of the Great October Revolution by stating that it saved Russia and enabled her to accomplish her historical mission. In 1917 Russia lay prostrate. Her ignorant and frivolous rulers had driven the people to despair. The October Revolution breathed faith into Russia. The Revolution helped the people to

ward off alien encroachments upon the unity and independence of our country. If the Revolution had not triumphed a quarter of a century ago, Russia today would be non-existent; she would have been torn to pieces. . . . Thus the October Revolution saved Russia twice: in 1917 and in 1941. But for the October Revolution there would have been no workers capable of building a factory in the wilderness in a single week, there would have been no Uzbeks to fight the Germans at Rzhev, there would have been no defenders of Stalingrad. . . ."

Such is Ehrenburg's love and understanding of his motherland. And when his great motherland was threatened with mortal danger, when the Hitlerite plague spread through the Don steppe and over the Caucasian foothills, Ehrenburg found in his heart the right words to utter. In a series of ardent, passionate and tensely dramatic articles he called upon every Red Army man, every Soviet citizen, to rise up and resist, to fight to save his country from the brown plague. I will cite only one example. In an article entitled "It Is Time," published on August 23, 1942, Ehrenburg wrote:

"Soldier, not only your company is marching with you in battle. With you are marching the entire Army and the entire people. With you are marching the fallen heroes, the soldiers who barred the enemy's path last summer and drove him back last winter.

"With you are marching your forefathers who welded the state of Russia. With you are marching the soldiers of 1812 who drove out the invincible Napoleon. With you are marching Budenny's men and Chapayev's men, starving and barefoot, but triumphant in spite of all. With you are marching your children, your mother, your wife. They give you their blessing. You will win a tranquil old age for your mother, a joyous reunion for your wife, happiness for your children.

"Soldier, with you Russia is marching. She is by your side. Listen to her winged tread. She will hearten you with a tender word in the hour of battle. She will support you if you flinch. She will embrace you if you triumph."

These words were not written in vain. They seared the hearts of the Red Army men like coals of fire. And when Stalingrad became the triumph of Soviet arms, Ehrenburg wrote:

"Before the war we had many words, magnificent words and tender words. After victory we will have many more words, for life will be great and varied. But now we have few words. Now we have only one word . . . the most cherished, most precious. Into it we put all our heart, all our yearning, all our hope. It is the brief word—'Forward!'"

And again: "Every evening, when the last hour of news comes over the air, we hear, as it were, a muffled tread of feet. It is the Red Army marching on. It is history marching on . . . Forward, men of the Red Army . . . Forward! The country, proud of the Red Army, counts the booty. But the soldiers have no time to count: the soldiers are advancing!"

This is how Ehrenburg conceived the great turn in the course of the war which took place in December, 1942.

He writes of him who organized this great turn, who inspired and led the Soviet people and the heroic Red Army in their mighty resistance and in their victory.

"The Germans marched eastward. A foreboding of disaster flickered in the newspapers of our friends. And even among us were some whose hearts flinched. But Stalin did not flinch. Nor did his people. Hitler planned to review a parade of his troops in Red Square in Moscow on November 7. But Hitler reviewed a parade of German dead in all the fields from the Vistula to the Oka, from the Niemen to the Volga. And in Red Square the defenders saluted Stalin and our flag."

* * *

Whom does Ehrenburg hate?

First and foremost, the German Hitlerites. He hates them with a mortal hatred, with a hatred that kills and scorches. In his book Ehrenburg sketches vivid and biting portraits of the fascist bandits. Be-

fore us passes a long gallery of these vile Hanses, Fritzes and Karls who "slay suckling infants . . . torture the wounded . . . violate girls . . . burn down our cities . . . trample down our fields . . . hew down our orchards."

"Their ideal," writes Ehrenburg, "is a hunk of bacon, an earring torn out with the flesh, a jacket stripped from a murdered child. Heartless degenerates in human flesh, with a lump of rusty iron in place of a heart."

And again: "One is amazed at the spiritual poverty of these learned cannibals. They cannot torture without philosophical quotations. They indulge in psychoanalysis as they stand around gallows. And one wants to kill Fritz the philosopher twice: one bullet for having tortured Russian children, and another for quoting Plato after having slain a child."

However, Ehrenburg's is not a blind hatred, a one-sided hatred that thinks only of revenge. The sentiment with him is of a different order.

"Hatred did not come to us easily," writes Ehrenburg in the opening article of the collection. "We paid for it with cities and regions and with hundreds of thousands of human lives. But now our hatred is ripe. . . . We have come to realize that we cannot live on the same earth with the fascists. We have come to realize that this is not a time for concessions or negotiations, that very elementary things are at stake—the right to breathe. . . . Our hatred of the Hitlerites is dictated by love, by love of our countryman and mankind. Therein lies the power of our hate. And therein lies its justification."

This is how Ehrenburg writes of the enemy. Every word is a rifle shot and every phrase a machine-gun burst. These qualities have earned him extraordinary popularity with the Red Army. Every day his letter-box is crammed. . . .

At times, perhaps—under the influence of passion or irritation—Ehrenburg goes to extremes, gives expression to disputable thoughts, over-paints the picture. But this is not important. The important and essential thing is that Ehrenburg is a fighting author who understands the Army and whom the Army understands.

* * *

So much for the present. But what of the future?

It is hard to guess the future, but even so it seems to me that when, many years hence, people begin to sum up the events we are now living through—and having given the prime causes of the Second World War their due, come to deal with individuals who in one degree or another played a part in the grand panorama of our times—they will also have a good word to say for Ilya Ehrenburg, the fighting author whose pen was tipped with so much passion, wrath and hope.

On the RED ARROW—Moscow - Leningrad Express

By Vera Inber

In January, 1943 the enemy ring around Leningrad was broken. Petrokrepost, a point on the Moscow-Leningrad railway, was recaptured. The significance of this could hardly be overestimated, for it made possible the resumption of railway communication between Leningrad and Moscow.

A year ago the train from Moscow to Leningrad traveled along a zigzag route, for much of the main railway was still in the hands of the enemy. Naturally there were long waits at the stations, and the Moscow-Leningrad train puffed and gasped like a living being laboring under strain. When in January, 1944 the blockade was completely lifted, we began to dream of the Red Arrow Moscow-Leningrad express. The comfortable, almost luxurious prewar express became to us a sort of symbol of Leningrad's complete release. So we waited for the Red Arrow's first journey. On March 21 our dream was realized. After more than two years, the Red Arrow pulled in at Leningrad, drawn by one of the finest locomotives of the Moscow railway.

"It's just like before the war," has become a common expression with us today—bringing to our minds the high prewar standards created by our people in the happy times when unhampered by the Nazis we devoted ourselves to the fulfillment of our great tasks.

But when we finally boarded the Red Arrow, its cars looked far more inviting than before the war. Perhaps this was because we were enjoying the comforts of an express during the war. Riding on this train was indeed a victory. And victory was our companion on the way, for we had hardly reached Kalinin when we heard the broadcast of Stalin's order on the recapture of Mogilev-Podolski, and later came the news of the taking of Vinnitsa.

As far as the station of Bologoye the engineer of our train was Vasili Vinogradov, one of Moscow's most celebrated railwaymen, honored with the title of Hero of Socialist Labor. In Bologoye his crew was replaced by a Leningrad crew, with engineer Ivanov, helper Alexeyev and fireman Anna Pruskova.

The road to Bologoye was familiar to us; but from there the train traveled along the prewar route leading directly to Leningrad, through land recently wrested from the enemy. The beautiful northern Russian forests were a piteous spectacle, scorched and scarred and with tree-tops shorn off. The earth was pitted with shell craters, and on either side of the road villages lay in ruins, the frames of houses and blasted bridges protruding from the wreckage. Wherever we looked, bomb pits filled with ice, shat-

tered log cabins, roof fragments and rails twisted into spirals, marred the countryside.

Crossing the river over a newly-laid wooden bridge, we caught sight of the mauled remains of the former steel bridge some distance away. On the new wooden bridge lay neat rows of defused mines, round as dinner plates. Shell casings and German thermos bottles lay among blasted tanks and derailed trains. Like cooled lava, all this reminded one of the fires of battle which had raged here only a short time before.

Here the enemy had entrenched himself and dug deep into the earth, dreaming of victory and hoping to save himself from Russian wrath. An endless line of Nazi trenches, blindages, ditches and machine-gun emplacements stretched along the railroad. Here the enemy built subterranean passages framed in steel, lined with brick and concrete and surrounded by barbed-wire entanglements. The Germans did everything to hold their ground, but only succeeded in strewing the fields with their dead.

At first glance it might seem that this land, scorched and torn in battle, would for long years remain barren, rejecting life and habitation. But this is not so. New life is already springing from the battered soil. We saw women filling a tremendous bomb crater, preparing to lay the foundations for a new building. In other places the blackened snow was covered with fresh shavings. Brand new telegraph poles stood erect along the road, near the charred skeletons of their predecessors.

As we pulled up at Tosno, we saw some German freight trains still standing there. Words in German, Dutch and French were inscribed on them. These trains passed unharmed through half of Europe—to come to a dead stop near Leningrad.

We passed Sablino, Popovka and Kolpino. Finally the Izhora works, which had been turned into a fortress that held its ground against the enemy, came into view. The Germans were so near this plant our fighting men heard them singing carols on Christmas Eve.

The passengers on the Red Arrow were all of that tireless, unflinching brand of Soviet people who served their country in its hour of need to the very limit of their ability. Among them were fighters who had dealt crushing blows to the enemy, builders bringing life back to the Nazi-wrecked and war-shattered country, and doctors healing human lives and snatching them from death. We all felt that the reopening of the Moscow-Leningrad railway was a harbinger of victory, sounding the enemy's death knell.

Songs Born in Battle

By Matvei Grinyev

The All-Union Radio Committee in Moscow recently received the manuscripts of two songs written by Senior Lieutenant Oleg Lapshin to the words of the poems "First of May Morning," by the Byelorussian poet Brovka, and "Song of a Soldier's Mother," by Surkov.

"I am not a musician," wrote Lieutenant Lapshin, "nor are there musicians in my family. I have never studied music, but I am able to play the fiddle a little and know how to read notes—that's about all. I like music when it rings clear and true, and I have read everything of Romain Rolland's, including his lectures at the Paris Conservatory. This completes my musical education."

The Lieutenant went on to say that he was 23 years of age and had been at the front since the beginning of the war. "But I still long for my music," he continued. "I'm forgetting the feel of the fiddle, but I hope to learn again when the war is over. I should very much appreciate your opinion of my melodies. Are they worth anything? I can't even write vocal music, to say nothing of compositions for orchestra, so I have left the melodies plain and bare. If they are worth anything, use them as you wish."

The letter and songs were turned over to the famous Soviet composer Dmitri Kabalevsky. He found

the melodies intriguing. Unpretentious and simple, they charmed with their freshness, originality and genuine feeling. He wrote Lapshin his opinion, and went further, working the melodies into two lovely ballads which were sung on the air by artists of the All-Union Radio Committee on the 26th Anniversary of the Red Army.

* * *

There are many such music-lovers at the front, who devote their few hours of leisure to their favorite art. Frequently they lack training and the composer's knowledge, but such amateurs can count upon the aid of trained musicians who are more than willing to correct their mistakes and to give form to their creations. Soviet artists in all fields regard this as a sacred duty to the patriots at the front.

Thousands of ensembles of artists, musicians and actors are appearing in performances at the front, where hundreds of thousands of concerts and variety shows and many complete plays have been presented. Special groups of musicians and directors give constant encouragement and advice to the innumerable amateur art ensembles among the fighters. This work is an expression of the affection and attention which surround the Red Army, and the close ties which link the heroic front-line men with the rear.

WANDERING MINSTREL

No one knew where he came from, or where he was going. He wandered alone through the towns and villages of the Poltava Region singing his beautiful songs. Levko, he called himself, and by that name he was known in Kremenchug and Mirgorod, in Sorochintsi and Poltava itself.

Wherever the blind old man appeared in his worn grey coat, his bandura (Ukrainian stringed instrument) under his arm, the Ukrainians living wretchedly under the German occupation gathered to hear him sing. Levko sang of the Soviet Ukraine, of the good old times when they were free and independent. He called the Germans bandits and murderers, and people wept to hear him, for his songs reminded them of their dead.

One day the Germans found out what the blind minstrel sang about in the village market-places. They seized him and tortured him, trying to make him tell where the guerrillas were hiding, and how many there were. But Levko only said: "I know nothing about guerrillas. I know only one thing: my beloved land, where my fathers and forefathers

lived. And the songs, the beautiful songs of my Ukraine." Old Levko was found at a crossroads near Poltava, a bullet in his head, and his old bandura, bullet-ridden, pressed to his breast. Before the Red Army drove them out, the Germans had shot the old man for his songs. The Red Army men buried the minstrel at the crossroads, marking his grave with a high mound. And now when travelers pass this place they say: "Here lies our Levko, our blind minstrel Levko."

The people were extremely fond of the old man, and in many villages of the Poltava district they still remember how he looked in his gray coat and high sheepskin hat; they still remember his songs about approaching liberation, about the collective farms, peaceful life and peaceful toil.

The songs the old Ukrainian sang have made their way to all parts of the Poltava district and the whole Ukraine. They are now being collected by folk bards and minstrels, and written down in memory of the beloved Ukrainian folk singer who called himself Levko.

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Information Bulletin

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Washington, D. C., May 16, 1944

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May, 1940—May, 1944

By Ilya Ehrenburg

On May 10, 1940, Germans invaded France. They were of the true Fritz breed, the pick of the nation. They marched gaily westward. They looked on Paris as only the *hors d'oeuvre*, to be followed by London, Moscow, the Urals and India.

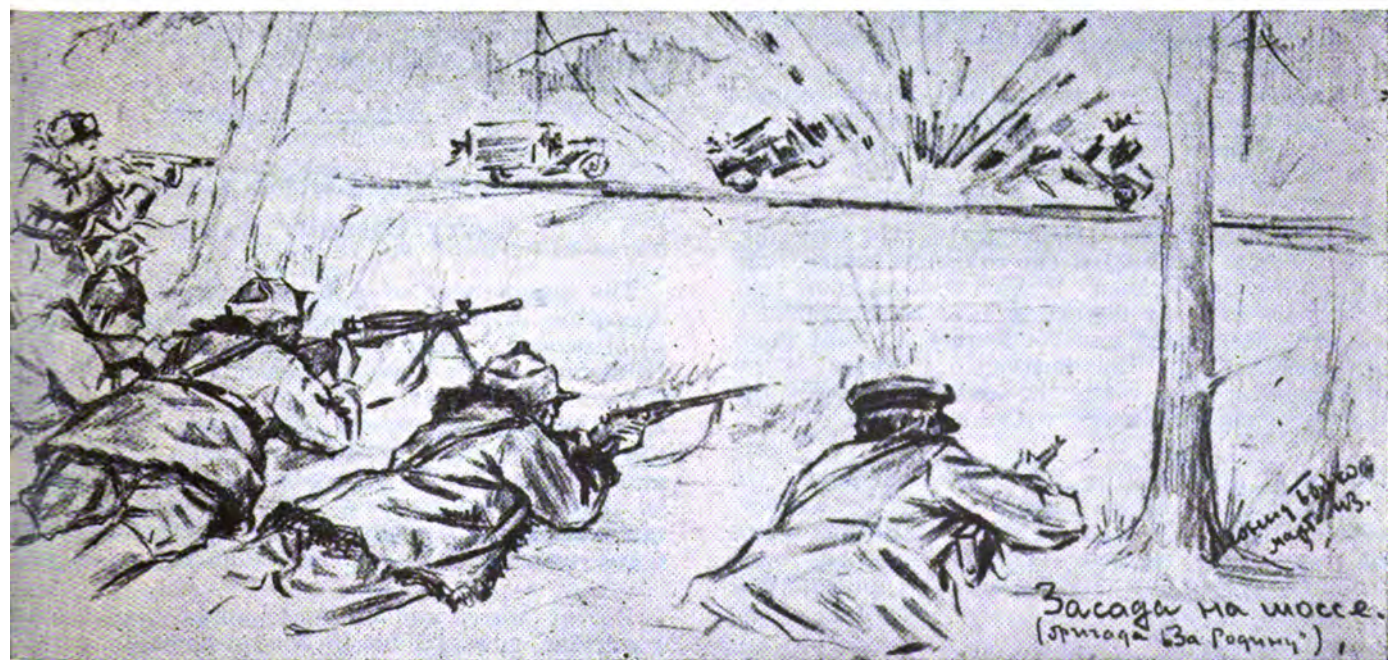
The German general staff perpetuated the invasion of France in a film called *Victory in the West*. In it you see Germans shooting, guffawing and devouring. You see them setting fire to the ancient city of Rouen. The film was made in 1940, to strike terror in the hearts of nations. It will serve for another purpose: evidence in court.

In May, 1940, the Germans sped toward victory. Their panzers drove through houses. Their motorcycles roared and snorted. No doubt the Fritzies who experienced exultation in those days are now racking their brains, wondering what could have happened to them. Why, instead of at the Ganges, are they at the Seret? Why, instead of fabulous palaces, do

they see the ruins of German cities? Why has Germany been left with the spilt milk pail?

However, only a very few of the Germans who invaded France have survived today. The triumphant conquerors of that May are now rotting in Russian soil.

Anatole France in the satirical story *Penguin Island* described the conqueror Trinquot as follows: "He broadened the empire of the penguins. He planted the standard of Penguinia in the ice of the Pole and the sands of Africa. He recruited soldiers in conquered countries. He made them all march, grenadiers and redskins decked with parrots' feathers, and pygmies and gorillas, led by an old ape whose shaggy breast sparkled with crosses and orders. They marched from victory to victory. Trinquot warred for 30 years. He won half a world, and then lost half a world. He was exuberant in defeat as in victory. He even lost two islands which had



Byelorussian guerrillas ambushed along a mined road—picking off Germans as their trucks are blown up

Drawing by Leonid Boiko—Story on page four

belonged to the penguins before Trinquet. He left Penguinia devastated and deserted. The flower of the penguins perished in the wars. When Trinquet fell, all that were left in Penguinia were cripples and hunchbacks."

Hitler has repeated the career of this ill-starred penguin. He planted his swastika standard in the ice of the Pole and the sands of Africa. He is extremely exuberant in his defeats. He has reduced Germany's reserves to cripples and hunchbacks. It is to be presumed that the rapacious German penguins will also lose their "two islands." Is this the epilogue the Germans dreamed of in May, 1940, when they gaily washed the town hall of Ardennes with wine and champagne?

The French relied on the Maginot Line. They know now that it isn't lines that count, but men. What is more, the Maginot Line went only as far as Belgium. And the Germans invaded France through Belgium. France paid dearly for her errors. Many of her judges were cleverer than the French only to the extent of a stretch of salt water.

By the time the world recovered from the narcotic of "appeasement," France had fallen to the Germans. Much water has flowed under the bridges of the Seine since then. And under the Seine bridges have flowed many Germans shot by *Franc Tireurs*. Four years ago France was happy and flighty, rich and weak. Now she is ruined and bloodied, but she is strong in spirit. She's not ready for the almshouse. She doesn't wait—she fights. The soldiers of Yugoslavia, the guerrillas of Byelorussia and Lithuania, know of the wrath of the guerrillas of Savoy.

Grenoble was the city of Stendhal, a city of museums and white coal. Grenoble has become a city of revolt. France longs for one thing only—not for advice or advisers, but for arms.

In Stalingrad, on the Dnieper and on the Dniester, the Red Army annihilated the divisions which four years ago invaded France. French widows know that the butchers of their husbands have been punished. They have been tried and condemned without pompous speeches: on the battlefield. There is no French patriot who reads the communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau without emotion.

France is now waiting for the denouement. On May 7, 1943 the Allies, together with the French, liberated Tunis. The heart of Paris beat high. Since then a year has elapsed. The prologue has been rather long drawn-out. Let us hope the epilogue will move faster.

The Germans have talked so much about their "Atlantic Wall" it has even ceased to frighten the wild rabbits on the dunes between Ostend and Nor-

mandy. Why are the Germans so loudly advertising their fortifications? Because they have lost faith in their own strength. They still believe in the naivete of others. But this is not 1940. Everybody knows that the fortifications around Leningrad didn't save the Germans. One might say that the German "walls" are portable; they have shifted as the Fritz retreat. How long was it since there was a "wall" on the Dnieper? Now it seems to be on the Seret. A tiny village may be besieged for 30 years, and one of the most powerful fortresses in Europe may be reduced in three days.

We are now in May, 1944, and this truth is manifest to all.

The Germans are naively trying to palm themselves off as the protectors of France. But the French know the sentimental boches. There is a fine Russian proverb: "When the fox has finished his Lenten fast, look after the geese." It is vain for the German fox to pretend he is fasting. France and the Germans are divided by blood. A German wrote from Montpellier, "When French women look at me there is such malice in their eyes the food sticks in my throat." Yet it isn't easy to kill a Fritz's appetite.

The calm before the storm in France is being rent by shots and explosions. This May is not like May, 1940. At that time the British were preparing for the exodus from France. Now they and the Americans are preparing to take a different route. At that time the Germans were marching on Paris. Now we are marching on Berlin. In that May, winter was moving down upon the world. This May will be remembered as a genuine spring.

Lvov Guerrillas Kill Six Germans for Every Casualty Suffered

The commander of a large guerrilla detachment operating in the Lvov Region, who recently arrived in Moscow by plane, reports that as the line of the front reached the Region thousands of patriots joined the guerrilla forces. "We are stronger than ever," said the tall, 45-year-old Ukrainian, who was formerly chairman of a collective farm. "The failure of German attempts to crush out the guerrillas can be judged from the fact that this year my detachment killed six Germans for every casualty we suffered—compared to a three-to-one ratio last year."

During March and the first half of April the Lvov guerrillas engaged in 15 major combats with the enemy, killing some 3,000 German soldiers and officers and wrecking four tanks, five light field guns, two radio stations and other materiel.

THE FINAL ASSAULT ON SEVASTOPOL

By A. Kalinin

We will remember this date—May 7—when at nine in the morning the thunder of Soviet guns heralded the decisive assault on the Germans' heavily-fortified defense zones. German artillery tried to retaliate, but the sound of scores of enemy gun and mortar fire and the anti-aircraft guns they were compelled to turn against our land troops was drowned by the deafening and ever-mounting roar of Soviet artillery.

Sevastopol has known many a stormy sea, but they were pale before that storm of fire which raged over the city and the approaches to it. Prisoners who were afterward taken in large numbers said the German troops sustained heavy casualties, not only from shells and bombs but from the myriads of rock fragments, large and small, which they raised. This was the beginning of the assault for which the Soviet army outside Sevastopol had been preparing long and thoroughly, day and night. The Germans clung desperately to the hills, where they had massed large quantities of guns securely ensconced in pillboxes. Soviet artillery and aircraft battered down the concentration. The infantry followed close behind the artillery barrage, tearing their hands against the thorny scrub and sharp rocks. They wrested trench after trench and pillbox after pillbox from the enemy. Hand-to-hand fights flared up everywhere. All paths, ridges and hill slopes were littered with German corpses and shattered armament.

Zakharov's men, who outstripped the rest, attacked the city from the north. We are accustomed to regard an assault as an attack of a military objective simultaneously from all sides. But a feature of the assault on Sevastopol was that the attack was delivered from one direction—from the north. To the Germans, to all appearances, expected the decisive blow to come from the south. When we successfully struck from the North Bay, it could not have upset their general plans. They began to regroup their forces to meet the threat from the north, but at this juncture our attack from the south was launched.

But this on the second day. On the first, from dawn to dusk and deep into the night our bombers and Stormoviks kept coming over Sevastopol. The very black of the Crimean sky was starred with bright bursts of flak. As has been reported, the German aircraft fire at Sevastopol was extremely dense and concentrated. Nevertheless the Soviet air force remained mistress of the skies.

We have spoken of the artillery storm. This was augmented by a mighty aircraft storm. The Luftwaffe at the height of the German attack upon Sevastopol made 2,800 sorties a day. We surpassed

this in our assault on Sevastopol. "It was hell," the German prisoners say falteringly. Cliffs collapsed, pillboxes were blown sky-high and ships and barges enveloped in flames. The fighting was particularly intense at the approaches to Sapun Hill. Wreathed in shell-bursts, it looked like an enormous fur hat.

The attack on this hill was, of course, the most important episode in the assault. As long as the Germans held Sugar Loaf Hill, Sapun Hill and Koran Hill they could command all ingresses to the Inkerman valley and prevent our troops from gaining access to it. But as soon as these hills were taken, all roads to Sevastopol came under our control and an approach to the city from the south was opened to Kreiser's and Mylnikov's men. At the same time, Zakharov's troops captured MacKenzie Hill, which enabled them to make a dash to the northern outskirts of Sevastopol. By May 8 the Germans could no longer use North Bay for their shipping. Only the small bights of Kazachaya, Streletskaya and Kamyshevaya were still in their possession, but even these were already within range of our batteries. On the night of May 8-9, heavy bombing raids were made on the bays. Dozens of fires were observed. Shipping wharves and warehouses were wrapped in flames. Several transports tried to escape to the open sea, but our fast torpedo boats overtook and sank two with a total displacement of 7,000 tons.

The assault continued uninterruptedly night and day. The three fortified German zones were penetrated one after another. Scores of pillboxes and bunkers forming one mighty ferro-concrete fortress, first built by Black Sea sailors in 1941-42, again passed into our hands.

Examining the wall of one of these pillboxes we found an inscription, "Ivan Epishko, petty officer," written in indelible pencil two years ago. Where is he now? . . . this member of the gallant band which defended Sevastopol in 1941-42. Has he returned to these lines or is he fighting the Germans on another front—or has he perhaps fallen in action? We do not know. But may these lines reach the friends of this brave sailor and tell them that men who stormed and recovered Sevastopol were here today in this pillbox where Ivan Epishko and his friends fought, and that they bowed in reverence to the ground for which these men shed their blood in 1941-42.

Stubborn fighting for the last of the Sevastopol lines continued until late in the evening of May 9. Hemmed against the sea, the Germans fought with the stubbornness of despair. But they could not avert their doom. Only those Germans survived who surrendered. Inflexible in their noble wrath, the heroes of the Sevastopol assault completed the destruction of the remnants of the German army.

Young Soviet Artist Fights Two Years In Byelorussian Guerrilla Detachment

By Anatoli Glebov

In 1932 Leonid Boiko was a student at the Kharkov Art Institute. Two years before Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union he was called up for military service, and was awaiting demobilization when the war broke out. Within two weeks the young artist was fighting desperate battles and experiencing the bitterness of retreat.



Leonid Boiko

He was finally taken prisoner by the Germans, and put in a train going to the rear. He escaped by leaping from the train while it was going full speed, but was later caught and sent to a concentration camp for war prisoners.

The camp was typical of Hitlerite accommodations for Red Army prisoners. Each day 40 or more men

died from disease, savage beatings and starvation. Boiko again managed to escape, and this time was able to hide for some months in Byelorussian villages, with the aid of collective farmers.

In May, 1942 he made contact with the Byelorussian guerrillas and joined them. The chief of the detachment, a man who had formerly held a high post in civilian life, gave Boiko an assignment to draw anti-Hitlerite posters. The guerrillas secretly put up the posters in areas behind the German lines, in occupied villages and other unexpected places.

Sometime later five guerrilla units decided to put out newspapers in manuscript form. Boiko threw himself into this work with the greatest enthusiasm, creating illustrations which revealed the life of the guerrillas, their courage and glorious achievements. During these periods he made hundreds of sketches.

But absorbing as this work was, the artist did not miss a single day's reconnaissance or fighting. He shared all the hardships and privations of guerrilla life in the marshy forests of Byelorussia, participating in scores of operations, campaigns, reconnoitering missions and attacks on enemy columns.

For his courage and resourcefulness on numerous occasions, Boiko was recommended for a decoration by the guerrilla command.

The drawings were made at all times and places. Sometimes while waiting in ambush to attack the enemy Boiko sketched individual guerrillas. During a march he would halt for a few moments to make a rough drawing of an advancing column in the gray of a winter morning. In the interiors of dug-outs in the depths of the forests; at the end of fierce battles, his quick pen made a permanent record of the lives of these ordinary men and women whom love for their country had turned into avenging heroes.

Leonid Boiko's drawings will have a place in the history of this magnificent popular movement, in the epic of the struggle of the Soviet people for their country and their freedom.

Karaganda — A New Granary

The collective farms of the Karaganda Region of Kazakhstan, in Soviet Asia, delivered twice as much grain to the State last year as in 1941. Karaganda formerly consumed more grain than it produced; now it grows more than it consumes.

Dugout of the Byelorussian guerrilla detachment known as "The Flame," deep in forests where the Germans fear to penetrate. Fallen pine trees camouflage the hiding-place from the eyes of Nazi airmen



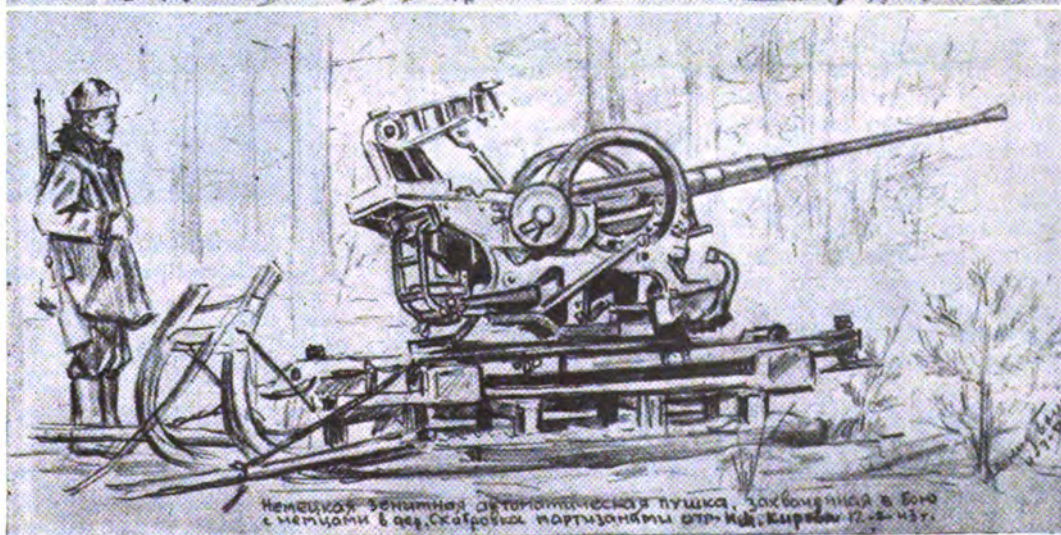
Землянка в партизанском районе «Пламя».

Inside the above dugout. Here, where it is cosy, well-lighted and warm, the guerrillas enjoy a brief breathing spell while awaiting orders. Tablecloth, benches and dishes help to create an illusion of home, precious to these men so long separated from their families and the ordinary comforts of life



В землянке.

Even their boasted technical equipment failed to save the Germans from the swift, devastating blows of Soviet patriots. Here is a captured anti-aircraft gun which the guerrillas have placed, not without humor, on an ordinary peasant sledge, from which it mows down the Germans



Немецкая зенитная автоматическая пушка, захваченная в бою с немцами в окр. Скарбейки партизанами отряда Кирова 12-2-43г.

Soviet Science Puts War Needs First

By Vladimir Komarov

President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR

From the early days of the Patriotic War the Academy of Sciences of the USSR placed all its facilities at the service of the front. The attention of our scientists was directed mainly to bringing the researches of institutes and laboratories closer to the needs of defense and of the national economy. Soviet scientists have developed measures for increasing the productivity of war industry, transport and agriculture, and have done much to improve the medical service of the Red Army.

The Presidium of the Academy of Sciences has organized various committees for mobilizing the resources of the Urals, Western Siberia, Kazakhstan and the Middle Volga and Kama Regions for defense needs; also a committee for increasing food resources, and another for geologico-geographical service to the Red Army. The Institutes of the Academy have made it a practice to commission scientific workers to the factories to establish close contact with industry. Scientists are to be found in shops and laboratories, and at open-hearth and blast furnaces. They work with the inventors, perfecting armaments, speeding up production processes and uncovering new resources. Never has the scientific-technical thought of the USSR been pervaded by such spirited activity.

Problems of Liberated Areas

Now that the Red Army has freed hundreds of cities and thousands of villages from the enemy, the Academy of Sciences has turned to problems connected with the restoration of the economy of liberated areas. The Mining Institute has made plans for the restoration of the productive powers of the Donets and Moscow coal basins. In the Institute of Geological Sciences a review of the geophysics of the Donbas has been made, with new fields marked for exploitation and new areas for prospecting. The Metallurgy Institute has worked out a number of problems to aid in rebuilding the metallurgy of the Soviet south—including the fundamentals involved in restoring blast furnaces, steel-smelting, rolling and pipe-rolling production, as well as the production of iron alloys. Scientists in the transport field have dealt with the restoration and development of the railroad and other transportation routes.

The Physico-Mathematics, Chemistry, Technical and Geologico-Geographical Sections have given great scientific-technical aid to the Red Army and Navy during the war. The Biological Sciences Division has worked on the improvement of the medical and hygiene services of the Red Army and the rear. Effective methods have been developed for the treat-

ment of various complications attending wounds, such as shock, bleeding and nervous disorders.

The Institutes of History and Philosophy have completed a series of works on the war. A Commission on the History of the War is writing a "Chronicle of the Patriotic War," of which seven monographs have been completed, devoted to the defense of Moscow, Stalingrad, Sevastopol and Odessa. Of espe-



Academician Nikolai S. Derzhavin, outstanding Soviet philologist and historian of literature

cial interest is a work published by the Law Institute: *On Compensation for Material Losses Caused by the War, from the Point of View of International Law*.

In the first half of 1943 the affiliated sections and bases of the Academy of Sciences completed 154 scientific papers, and were at the same time active in accelerating the development of various branches of industry in the Union and Autonomous Republics.

(Continued on page eight)

'FINISH OFF THE GERMAN BEAST IN HIS LAIR'

The following editorial appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number Nine:

... The peoples of the Soviet Union celebrated May Day amid the historic victories of the Red Army at the front and the outstanding successes of workers, collective farmers and intellectuals in the rear. On that day the words of Supreme Commander Marshal Stalin's Order of the Day, words full of confidence and strength, resounded throughout the world.

Stalin's Order of the Day reviewed the heroic fight of the Red Army against the German-fascist invaders and the efforts of the entire Soviet people who, as this Patriotic War has shown, is "capable of performing miracles and emerging victorious from the hardest trials." The Order of the Day outlines the military tasks confronting the Soviet people and its armed forces. The Red Army liberating its native land has reached our frontiers along a stretch of over 400 kilometers; more than three-quarters of the originally occupied Soviet territory has been cleared of the fascist cum.

"The object now is," Stalin said, "to clear the whole of our land of the fascist invaders and to reestablish the State frontiers of the Soviet Union along the entire line from the Black Sea to the Barents Sea."

But the task of the Soviet people, Stalin said, is not confined to driving the German-fascist troops from our land. Stalin compared the German army to a wounded beast which crawls back into its lair to lick its wounds. There can be no doubt that the wounded fascist beast will continue to resist with stubborn and vicious obstinacy. The German bandits are well aware that stern retribution awaits them for their unparalleled crimes. The German-fascist ends are making desperate efforts and will continue to make desperate efforts to escape just punishment.

The Hitlerite adventurers base their calculations chiefly on protracting the war. They are striving at all costs to obtain breathing space in which to muster their forces and launch into new bloody adventures. But the freedom-loving nations cannot rid themselves of the danger of enslavement as long as the wounded German beast is not finished off in its own lair. Until this is done, the subjugated European nations will continue to languish in servitude.

"Obviously," Stalin said, "this task is more difficult than the expulsion of German troops from the Soviet Union. It can be accomplished only on the basis of the joint efforts of the Soviet Union, Great

Britain and the United States of North America, by joint blows from the east dealt by our troops and from the west dealt by the troops of our Allies. There can be no doubt that only such a combined blow can crush completely Hitlerite Germany."

It is precisely this combined blow that fascist Germany fears most of all. The German fascists continue as heretofore to base their hopes on the belief that the Allies will be unable to organize such a combined blow, which will swiftly and definitely decide the fate of the German aggressors.

For all their smug self-confidence the Hitlerites cannot help understanding that in the long run they cannot hold out against the combined assault of the mighty armed forces of the three greatest powers in the world, the Soviet Union, the United States of America, and Great Britain. And precisely for that reason the German fascists and their supporters all over the world are striving their hardest to avert or at least postpone the impending combined action of the Allies from the East and West.

Now that the time is fully ripe, now that all preparations have been made and the Germans may expect a crushing blow any day, the champions of the German fascists in the Anglo-Saxon countries are mobilizing their last political reserves in an attempt to alter the course of events. One time they unscrupulously speculate on the sacrifices which the invasion of Western Europe will demand of Britain's and America's troops; at another they complain that—and this in the fifth year of the war against Hitler Germany—the explanation of "war aims" is still not clear to them; at another still they again advance in a veiled form treacherous defeatist recommendations for a compromise peace with fascist Germany.

And if Karl von Wiegand, Hearst's notorious hack, weeps crocodile tears over the fact that the "invasion will be a supreme tragedy for mankind," that it will "still further weaken the numerically diminishing white race at a time when colored nations are continuing to grow numerically," and that the invasion "will cost terribly dear," these hysterical outcries only betray the fear of invasion harbored by the Hitlerites and their supporters.

The German beast would now be glad only to get away with his whole skin. The time has passed when the Hitlerites based their calculations on blitz campaigns, on a triumphal march from country to country. Now they base all their hopes on their opponents committing gross and absurd blunders. For

example, according to the foreign press, one of the present "strategical calculations" of the Hitlerite ringleaders and their satellites is that the Allies will confine the invasion to a small landing and the establishment of a small beachhead on the West-European coast, and that after that they will pass to slow "wharf positions." It need not be said that here the wish is father to the thought. If a hungry hen dreams of millet, the Hitlerites dream of such an ersatz invasion. It is obvious that a genuine invasion means skilful, speedy and determined operations on the part of British and American troops, with the object of defeating the Germans in the West, driving the German beast back into its lair, following hard on its heels and, together with the Red Army attacking from the East, finishing it off in its lair.

The hostilities in Italy, and in particular the hostilities at Anzio, Netuno and Cassino, demonstrated the utter groundlessness of the opinion sometimes expressed in the British and American press that the enemy can be defeated by air power and a small force of infantry alone.

It is not surprising that the German beast is defending the approaches to its lair with fury and desperation. If this resistance is to be effectively smashed, all the might of the armed forces at the Allies' disposal must be brought into action. If this is done, Hitler's plan to protract the war will be completely frustrated; for the history of wars knows of no other occasion when one belligerent party possessed such an overwhelming superiority of forces and weapons over the other as the combined forces

of the Allies possess over Hitler's war machine, which has already been pretty badly shattered in the three years of fighting on the Soviet-German front, and whose main forces continue to be fettered in the East.

Stalin's May First Order of the Day pays high tribute to the war effort of our great Allies, the United States of America and Great Britain, who "hold a front in Italy against the Germans and divert a considerable part of the German troops from us, supply us with very valuable strategical raw materials and armaments, and subject to systematic bombardments military objectives in Germany, and thus undermine the latter's military might."

There can be no doubt that swift, skilful and resolute action by the main forces of our Allies in the West, combined with the powerful blows by Soviet troops in the East, will finish off the fascist beast in his lair, liberate the enslaved nations of Europe and forever rid all freedom-loving nations of the danger of conquest by the German aggressor.

Germany still hopes to win time. "The longer the enemy delays," a German-fascist newspaper wrote recently, in connection with the question of the invasion, "the stronger will be our resistance." This last stake of the German bandit must be beaten. The time factor must be wrested from the enemy's hands. The sooner the vast armed forces accumulated and trained by our Allies are brought into action, both the sooner will come the day of victory and the less will be the sacrifices demanded to defeat the enemy.

SOVIET SCIENCE

(Continued from page six)

Membership of Academy Increased

The unprecedented development of science in the Soviet Union raised the question of increasing the number of members and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences. The number of candidates nominated in last year's elections exceeded all expectations: 224 candidates were proposed for membership and 467 as corresponding members.

The elections took place in the latter part of September. Thirty-six new academicians and 48 corresponding members were chosen. These are men who are advancing Soviet science, who combine scien-

tific and practical work and subordinate their activity to the solution of the main task—the final defeat of the German occupationists.

These eminent scientists in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, biology, technical history, literature and art, will work with the older members of the Academy toward the successful solution of the various problems now facing it. The election of new members in the midst of a war unprecedented in history is a noteworthy event, pointing to the unrivaled growth of scientific forces in the USSR, the flourishing of Soviet science and the firm faith of our people in the justice of their cause and final victory over the enemy. The Soviet country, a land of democracy, bears high the banner of progress. Soviet scientists are in the first ranks of the struggle against Hitlerism.

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AN IMMORTAL NAME

By Konstantin Paustovsky

Warships, monuments, forts, rusty cannonballs embedded in walls, the Admiralty, Malakhov Kurgan, pond blossoms and the soft, vaguely mysterious peninsulas—all these go to make up the city of Russian glory—Sevastopol.

The city of the renowned Admirals Lazarev, Kornilov and Nakhimov; the city of Prigorov, Leo Tolstoy, Gorkyushenko and Lieutenant Schmidt—its glory is founded upon great traditions, the majesty of its history, and its pride. It was proud in the days of the first defense, in 1854; it was proud in the years of the

Revolution, and it retained its proud, unbending spirit throughout the eight months of the last siege, one of the grimmest ever known.

Sevastopol's last defenders, men of the Red Army, died at Khersones, refusing to surrender. In their last hours, after they had flung the Germans back with fury, they had the courage to tell, with inevitable touches of sea humor, the story of an old steamer. She was among the last to leave the besieged port and her crew was certain she would capsize with the first blast, even if the bomb itself didn't hit her. But



The Palace of Culture in Ulan-Ude, capital of the Buryat-Mongolian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic

as it happened, the fateful bomb plunged right through her as though she were no thicker than paper, pierced the bottom of the vessel and exploded far under the sea. The crew calked the leak and the vessel proceeded on her way.

This yarn, which may be true or an invention of some Black Sea humorist, amused the last of Sevastopol's defenders. Faithful to the traditions of the Navy's courage and cheerfulness, they laughed and joked even when death was upon them. Had the Germans been capable of understanding the movements of the human soul, this laughter would have sent a shudder through them; they would have seen that in taking Sevastopol they had already lost it; that it was senseless to think of enslaving the Russians and that retribution would be unsparing.

Sevastopol is ours again. It will flourish with new splendor. A few months ago, when our troops were still outside Perekop and there was no offensive as yet, a group of Moscow architects and sculptors were told to prepare for the city's restoration. We knew we would return. We know that with superhuman effort and inspiration we will rebuild this city and port.

But to rebuild it we must keep recalling the old Sevastopol known and loved by us all. It was a picturesque place. The features of the maritime city, sea fortress and naval base were very strongly marked. Even in streets lying a long distance from the beach everything was reminiscent of the sea—anchor chains serving as railings and bannisters, shells crunching underfoot, masts with flags flapping noisily in the stiff sea breeze, the peculiarly nautical

flavor of the architecture in the houses of weathered Inkerman stone, and the ladder-like stairs connecting the steep streets.

In this city of the sea, poetry became life, actuality, the stuff of everyday things. In the twilight the streets were thronged with sailors. The clean whiteness of uniforms, the touches of dull gold on cap ribbons fluttering in the wind, the blue hulks of cruisers in the bay, the sirens, the sweep of searchlights, the calls of the boatmen and the laughter and song—all softened by the southern breeze—keyed up the general atmosphere to a holiday pitch.

In the future Sevastopol will be still more joyous and beautiful than in the past. The glory of those bygone days found expression chiefly in marble and bronze. The glory of our own day will find expression in these, too, but not in these alone. It will be reflected in the city itself: its buildings, streets, gardens, industries and cultural institutions—wherein everything should speak of our country's great struggle for happiness, justice, public wealth, independence and culture.

We will emerge victors from this struggle, and in memory of it we must recreate our cities a hundred-fold more beautiful than they were before. We must rebuild them secure in the knowledge that a happy generation will dwell in them.

Sevastopol is an important name—known throughout the world, from Greenland to Cape Horn, from Alaska to Sydney. The luster of its renown will shine through the ages, symbolic of courage and love of country.

SOMBER THOUGHTS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

On June 22, 1941, Corporal Hans Heil of the German 25th Sapper Battalion, wrote: "Yesterday we got properly soured. At 3:15 A. M. military operations began. We'll reach the Black Sea. It will be a fine excursion."

Since then there have been great changes. I will cite some quotations from the diary of Major Wilhelm Unkron, commander of the Second Battalion, 169th Artillery Regiment, 62nd German Infantry Division:

"The recent bombings of Munich have completely changed the face of the city. All you see is a multitude of wrecked and gutted buildings. Our soldiers are no longer in a state to put up any resistance to the enemy. At 14 o'clock the light battery had only 50 rounds of ammunition left, and this has to last till tomorrow. The situation is catastrophic.

They call this war, and they don't bring up shells! The Russians have broken through in great force to the left and right of us and we are again retreating. As always, our fellows retreat even where the Russians have no intention of attacking. The fact is that our morale has gone to pot.

"Company commanders have lost control of their men. Soldiers run as soon as they hear a Russian cheer, although no Russians are in sight. The army is passing through a crisis. The strictest orders are of no help, nor are threats of court-martial or even shooting. It is easy to say, 'Shoot every man who retreats,' but then the company commanders would have to shoot every one of their soldiers. No, this is not the way to win a war. We shall all perish soon. However, it's best not to think about it."

Such were the thoughts of Major Wilhelm Unkron last winter.

RECLAIMING THE DESERTS

By George H. Hanna

A Moscow newspaper recently printed a brief telegram from Ashkhabad, the capital of the Turkmenian Soviet Republic, reporting the completion of the survey of the desert of Kara-Kum, the "black" or "oil" sands. Over 60 Soviet scientific workers, including agronomists, zoo-technicians, hydro-technicians, experts in phylo-geography, as well as the aerial cartographers, have been working on it for over two years. The survey of the Kara-Kum is only part of the general plan for the reclamation of Soviet desert lands, for rendering the earth fruitful and providing food for man and beast.

Less than 50 years ago the Pamirs, that huge mountain massif of Soviet Tajikistan, were considered as inaccessible, mysterious and exotic as Tibet. To reach the Pamirs the traveler crossed from the Caspian Sea through Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, over about 1,325 miles of desert and semi-arid steppes.

The First Conquest

But today nearly every peak in the Pamirs has been made to yield up its rich stores of rare and precious metals which have lain hidden since the time of mountains in the middle of Asia was hurled by the tremendous forces that molded the contours of the earth. Not only are the metals mined; cities have been built on the spot, among the mountains, to treat the ore.

Scientists have acclimatized vegetables, fruit and grains, have bred entirely new sorts of plants, so that those who work high up in the Pamirs may have fresh food. That they might have meat, Soviet scientists undertook the task of cross-breeding merino sheep with local wild species to obtain an animal capable of withstanding the rigors of life at high altitudes. So the first desert region was conquered.

True, it is only a beginning. A remarkable botanical garden near the Afghan border gives a glimpse of what can be done in the Pamirs. This botanical garden, by the way, has what is believed to be the world's largest collection of potatoes.

Even more interesting are the tremendous irrigation projects now being realized in the semi-arid lands of Central Asia, the Caucasus and Transcaucasia. Uzbekistan, now one of the world's leading cotton-growing countries, a well-developed agricultural and industrial district, was less than 50 years ago a region of semi-arid deserts and rare oases, a land which grew such towns as Tashkent, Samarkand and Bokhara. This land of deserts contains

some large rivers, among them the Syr-Darya and the Amu-Darya, both fed by mountain snows and glaciers. But until Soviet times most of the water carried down by these rivers and their tributaries was lost: the land between was half desert, providing pasture for a few small herds of inferior cattle and sheep.

Ferghana Irrigation Schemes

The planned development of Soviet industry and agriculture made necessary a considerable extension of land under the plough. One example will show how this was achieved. The Ferghana Valley has very rich soil, highly suitable for cotton cultivation, but the water situation was extremely bad for farming. The eastern end of the valley was frequently swamped, while the western end was parched except during the annual flood, when the ice melted in the mountains.

In 1939 the local collective farmers decided to dig a canal straight through the valley to connect the two rivers, so distributing the water evenly over the whole valley. Scientists showed them how to regulate the water supply so that the crops would receive the exact amount of water required, since too much water can be just as destructive as too little. The farmers sent a telegram to Stalin, who promised Government support for the scheme. Then 160,000 farmers, men and women, turned out to dig the canal, completing 220 miles in the record time of 45 days. A tremendous number of people volunteered for the work—so many, indeed, that the farms decided to send only their very best people, their Stakhanovite workers, people of distinction. Digging the canal became a coveted honor. Branch canals covering the whole valley were also dug. The State bore the cost of the necessary engineering works.

Kara-Kum Desert Will Yield Riches

The survey of the Kara-Kum, which has just been completed, began shortly before Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. At one time the Amu-Darya flowed across Turkmenistan and fell into the Caspian Sea. Traces of its bed, called the "Uzboi," can still be seen. One of the objects of the survey of the Kara-Kum desert is the diversion of some of the water of the Amu-Darya westward through its old course to the Caspian. If water can be made to flow through the black sands of the Kara-Kum Desert, the plentiful warmth and sunlight will convert it into one of the richest oases of Soviet Asia, a "Soviet California," as one of our scientists once called it. It is planned to dig a canal over 300 miles long to irrigate an area



One of the many new roads constructed in Buryat-Mongolia in the past few years



Munko Buyantsev, (right) chairman of the Busygin camel-breeding collective farm in the Buryat-Mongolian Republic, who has been decorated by the Government. With him is Zadbo Namsaraev, a shepherd

of 1,500,000 acres capable of producing large crops of oranges, lemons, tangerines, tea and other products of sub-tropical climes.

In the Turkmenian Republic, which is 95 per cent arid, sandy desert, there is an interesting institution, the Repetek Desert Research Station, founded in pre-Soviet days, in 1912. Before the Revolution its work was of purely theoretical scientific interest, and it played no part in the development of the national economy. Soviet scientists, however, saw great practical possibilities in this station, and although it still conducts geographical and geological research, its main work is concerned with botany and biology.

During the Soviet regime it has gone a long way toward solving the fuel problem of the Turkmenian Republic. Coal and oil are scarce in this part of the world, and have to be brought over long distances, which is not only expensive, but overburdens the railways—a serious consideration in a country the size of the Soviet Union, especially in wartime. Moreover, trees are also extremely scarce, so that firewood is not to be had. In the old days, the pastoral folk

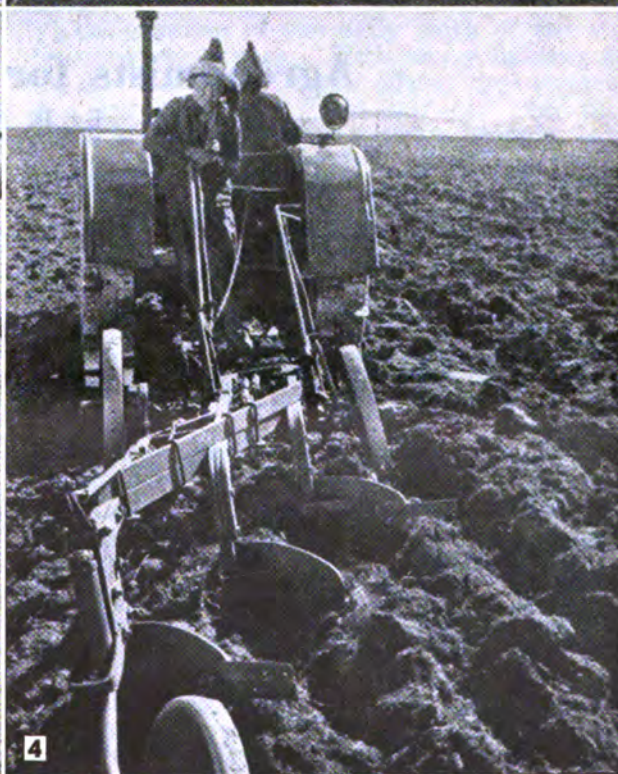
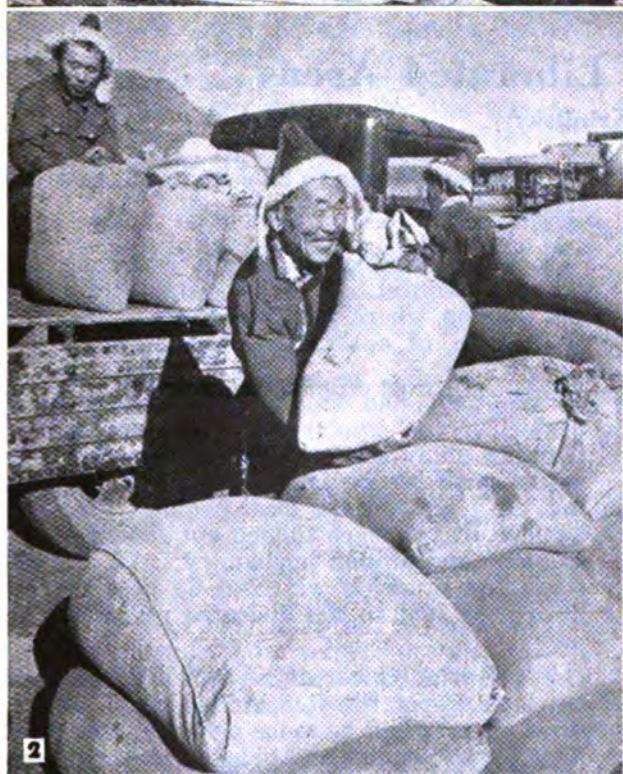
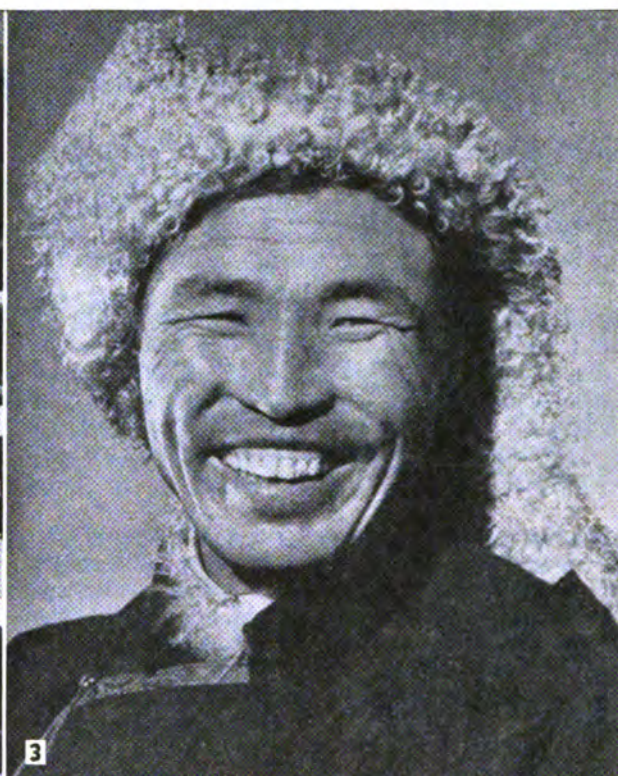
who lived in the desert with their camels and cattle depended almost entirely on dung for fuel.

Strange 'Forests'

The nearest approach to a tree in the Kara-Kum Desert is the saxaul, a singular affair without leaves and with but a few thin branches growing straight out from the trunk and bearing no twigs. The trunk grows in fantastic zig-zag curves to a height of 15 to 20 feet. It grows very slowly, so slowly that a saxaul tree reared from seed is a thin, weedy plant, only about three feet high at the end of five years. It takes 30 years to reach maturity.

After lengthy experiment, Leontiev, one of the botanists at the Repetek Desert Research Station, found that when the saxaul tree was grown from shoots taken from the parent tree, it reached a height of 15 feet and a diameter of six inches within five years. He recommended cutting for firewood at the age of 10 to 15 years. His advice was followed, and large tracts of desert land were planted to saxaul.

(Continued on page six)



(1) Newspapers coming off the press in Ulan-Ude, Buryat-Mongolia. Papers are published in both the Buryat and Russian languages; (2) A farmer of the Lenin collective farm receives payment in grain for his work; (3) Babu Bolotov, chairman of the Voroshilov collective farm, has been awarded the Order of Lenin for his work; (4) Plowing by tractor in the fields of the Lenin collective farm in Buryat-Mongolia

DESERTS

(Continued from page four)

trees. In 1942 many thousands of tons of fuel were obtained from this source without appreciably reducing the number of trees in the "desert forests." The importance of this fuel supply to Turkmenia's rapidly growing industry may easily be imagined.

One usually thinks of a desert as a place empty of animal and vegetable life. This is not really accurate. A recent book, *Useful Wild Plants of Turkmenia*, by Dr. Petrov, director of the Institute of Biology of the Turkmenian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, describes many desert plants of the utmost value to industry.

Scientists have found desert plants that yield the chemicals needed for tanning the hides produced by the extensive Turkmenian cattle-breeding industry. The desert rivers abound in jungles of reeds, the young shoots of which are rich in vitamin C. Other desert bushes bear leaves, flowers and fruit rich in salsolin, a preparation used in medicine for reducing blood pressure.

Despite its tremendous desert area, the Turkmenian Soviet Republic has developed quite an important industry. New branches established since the outbreak of war produce tanning extracts, vitamin concentrates, mineral fertilizers, matches and firebrick. The breeding of cattle and sheep is the chief industry—the famous "karakul," or "Persian lamb," comes from Turkmenia.

There is yet another kind of desert in the Soviet Union, in the other extreme climatic zone, the frozen tundras of the Far North. Like the burning deserts of the south, the frozen land of the north has been made to produce food for man. Mines have been sunk in the rock-like, permanently frozen soil, and around them whole towns have sprung up.

Soviet engineers are getting the riches out of earth hitherto untouched by man since the world began. Soviet botanists and biologists are growing apple and pear trees that spread over the ground like creepers and produce fruit under arctic conditions. Well within the Arctic Circle they are growing such hot-house luxuries as cucumbers and tomatoes. A special institute has been founded for the study of permanently frozen soil.

Agronomists for Liberated Areas

By B. Krinitsky

A meeting of 250 agronomists, zoological technicians and veterinary surgeons, passing through Moscow on their way to work in regions liberated from the enemy, was held recently in the People's Commissariat of Agriculture. This was one of many groups of agronomists assigned to the collective farms, State farms and machine and tractor stations of the North Caucasus, the Kuban, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Smolensk and Orel Regions.

Many thousands of specialists have been summoned from rear districts by the People's Commissariat of Agriculture in the past few months. Some are returning to their native homes; others are going to these recent battlefields for the first time. If an agronomist worked in the Rostov Region before the war, he will be sent there, because he is acquainted with the peculiarities of that Region.

The return of agricultural experts is proceeding according to a strict Government plan. A large number of specialists have expressed their desire to help revive the agricultural economy of the devastated regions. The director of the employment bureau of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture receives hundreds of requests daily from Central Asia, Siberia, the Urals and other Soviet Regions,

from persons eager to be sent to the newly-freed districts.

It is impossible to permit everyone to go who makes a request, since that would deprive the Eastern regions, where vital foodstuffs and technical crops are grown, of about half their specialists.

"We have had to find another solution for our problem," the employment director said. "We are training many thousands of new workers, first of all in the mass trades (tractor driving, combine operating, etc.), among the local people. Last year Soviet agricultural colleges turned out thousands of experts in plant and animal husbandry. All of them, except for a few students who will do post-graduate work, have been sent to the liberated regions."

The Soviet Government is fully aware that with the advance of the Red Army the need for agricultural experts will be more acute than ever. The People's Commissariat of Agriculture, collaborating with the Committee on Higher Schools under the Council of People's Commissars, is reestablishing the agricultural colleges in the Rostov, Stalingrad, Krasnodar, Voronezh, Kharkov, Orel and other freed Regions.

FRONT-LINE NEWSPAPERS

By Lieutenant Colonel Maxim Levin

The author is Assistant Chief of the Press Department of the People's Commissariat of Defense of the USSR.

Thanks to the constant attention of the Soviet Government, an extensive network of front-line newspapers has been set up in the Red Army. These papers, published in editions totaling millions of copies, may rightly be classed as an important weapon of the Red Army. They serve as a medium for the exchange of battle experiences and keep men and officers in touch with domestic and foreign affairs. They are the first friend and adviser of the serviceman in the field.

Front-line newspapers are issued daily at every front and in each Army, and every other day in each Army Corps and Division. By a decree of the Soviet Government, front-line dailies are also published in the languages of all the fraternal peoples of the Soviet Union whose sons are fighting for their common country.

Besides its regular staff of journalists, every army newspaper has a large number of contributors, ranging from generals to buck privates serving as infantrymen, machine gunners, snipers, scouts, sappers, artillerymen, cavalrymen, tankmen and fliers. Front-line newspapers are put out by the servicemen themselves, one of the main reasons for the extreme popularity of the Red Army sheets.

Krasnaya Armiya, published by one of the fronts, was recently honored by the Government with the Order of Red Banner for distinguished work in the front lines. In days of heaviest fighting this newspaper received from 40 to 100 letters daily from readers, discussing on the basis of their experience how to attack an enemy strongpoint, how best to destroy a German Tiger tank or a Ferdinand, how to fight in enemy trenches, etc.

The contributors are Red Army privates and sergeants actually engaged in the battles. Their opinions on how to act in different circumstances in the field, how to surmount various obstacles, are published in the columns of *Krasnaya Armiya*. The educational significance of such material is tremendous. The fighter-reader realizes the articles are written by men skilled in their respective army professions, from whom he can learn many vital points.

Before me is a copy of *Boyevoye Znamya*, issued daily by a Guards Unit. In the ranks of this particular unit was Alexander Matrosov, the Guards private who, in a critical moment of battle, blocked the machine-gun embrasure of a Nazi pillbox with his

body and secured the further advance of his comrades. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was posthumously bestowed upon him by the Government. By this heroic example and those of other outstanding men and officers, the Guards Unit paper inspires the Soviet warrior to boundless devotion to his country, to fearlessness and hatred of the enemy, and teaches him the art of conducting offensive battles.

When the enemy advanced upon Stalingrad, Red Army newspapers published by the Stalingrad Front carried a banner head: "Stand to the Death!" Their stirring appeals inspired iron staunchness and a lofty spirit of offensive action among our warriors.

During the crossing of the Dnieper, the newspaper *Za Chest Rodiny* called upon the men to "Beat the Germans on the Dnieper, as you beat them on the Volga!" thus reminding them of the heroic traditions of Stalingrad.

The staffs of front-line newspapers encounter numerous hardships and difficulties, frequently publishing in the immediate vicinity of the forward positions and often as not under enemy fire. Here is a typical example of the daily work of the staff of a divisional newspaper. With heavy fighting going on not far from the editorial offices, type-setters crouch in a low dugout or stand half-bent over their type boxes, setting the latest articles brought back from the field by staff journalists. Within three hours all type has been set and the pages made up. The editor, who frequently reads the galley and final proofs, gives the printer the order to hurry the finished page through the press.

Besides the printed publications put out by the Fronts, the Armies, Army Corps and Divisions, there is another variety of army newspaper: *Boyevoi Listok*, a hand-written sheet issued regularly on the battlefield by Red Army companies, platoons and squads. The *Boyevoi Listok* is the Soviet soldier's boon companion. These small sheets contain reflections about the fighting, briefly describe battle episodes and bring the latest radio news issued by the Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union.

Boyevoi Listok is put out on the march, on the eve of battle, in a lull between operations and sometimes in the thick of fighting. The papers are issued by the fighting men themselves, and most of the editorial workers are company and platoon commanders, or the more literary-minded among the privates.

One of the strongest weapons of the Red Army men, the front-line newspapers are playing a prominent role in scoring new victories over the enemy.

An Old Man Writes to a Soldier

The following letter was written by an old Soviet worker, Peter Salomov, to a Red Army man, Nikolai Cherpakov:

My dear young friend Nikolai Cherpakov:

No doubt you will be reading this letter by a smoky lamp when, late at night and still excited from recent battle, you come into your dugout for a short rest. Your small light will tremble from the nearby exploding shells. It will not be easy for you to decipher these lines.

I often think of you, and of all those I knew as young people happy with life and loving to do all manner of work. I, an old man, loved to be among you.

One wanted to build a city. Another thought he was called upon to humble nature, to make it serve man; another that he would create a new kind of rye. Every Soviet person had his aim in life.

The war changed everything. The architect and agronomist became warriors. The architect defended the house built to his plan. The agronomist defended the soil that gave birth to his rye.

How I envy you! How I would like my youth back. I weep because I cannot fight with you. All my life I fought for the happiness and bright future of my people.

You remember what a flourishing small city it was where we lived together before the war? This lovely little city with its theaters and nice houses and schools has been destroyed. The fascists set up gallows on the square where we spent so many pleasant hours in the evening.

When you go into the attack, remember. This is my fatherly behest to you.

PETER SALOMOV.

FILM ON KUTUZOV

By Ivan Rodin

Moscow film-goers are flocking to see a new film on Kutuzov, who led Russia's armies to victory against the invading forces of Napoleon in 1812. For the Soviet people his name is a synonym for courage and devotion; he is regarded as the embodiment of the alert wisdom and daring of the Russians. The film was produced by Vladimir Petrov, who was responsible for *Peter the First* and *Storm*.

"I set myself the task of conveying the essence of Kutuzov's wise strategy," said Petrov. "It was not by cunning that he defeated Napoleon, but by a well thought out and brilliantly executed plan. Napoleon was compelled to flee from Moscow and the confines of Russia not by the rigors of winter, as many people abroad are inclined to believe, but by the stalwart Russian army guided by Kutuzov, by the Russian people who had risen against the foreign invaders."

One of the film's high moments is the battle of Borodino, of which Napoleon said: "Of all the battles I have fought the most terrible was that near Moscow, where the French proved themselves worthy of victory and the Russians equally worthy, being invincible." Napoleon is portrayed by the actor Mozhinsky, Honored Artist of the Republic. The filming was completed at the Mosfilm studios—which have

recently returned from evacuation—in the remarkably short span of five and one-half months. From all parts of the USSR the producer received letters and old documents relating to Kutuzov's time, which proved very valuable in conjunction with the thousands of museum exhibits used by Petrov to insure accuracy of historical representation.

Petrov and his colleagues searched long and carefully for suitable people to portray even minor roles. Alexei Diki, an outstanding Soviet actor, plays Kutuzov.

Regular troops participated in the crowd scenes. It was strange to see Red Army men transformed into French Uhlans, grenadiers, or Russian gunners with the quaint headdresses of 1812, or into Cossacks of Platov's division. They spent several hours before the camera in the open in a temperature of 40 degrees below zero, with a howling blizzard raging. The weather, though vile, was perfect from the producer's point of view, particularly during the filming of the concluding scenes of the battle of the Berezina River, the defeat of the enemy, and the pursuit and annihilation of the Grand Army near the borders of Russia.

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After Two Years

By a Soviet War Correspondent

I entered Sevastopol with Lieutenant Colonel Stashko, commander of one of the units which stormed the city. Behind us came a radio operator carrying a walkie-talkie. The Colonel ran quickly up the hill overlooking Kilen Gully. The city lay below, and all who scaled the height stopped as though thunderstruck, whispering the magic name, "Sevastopol."

Colonel Stashko turned to the man with the walkie-talkie and asked to be connected with the commanding officer. He spoke quickly, "Comrade Colonel? It's Stashko. I'm over Sevastopol. My men have entered the city. There is fighting in the Korabelnaya district. Please shift artillery fire."

Everyone listened to the Colonel's report with growing excitement. It was clear the same thought was in each man's mind . . . "We've entered Sevastopol . . . the hour for which we have waited these two years has come. . . ."

Colonel Stashko remained on the crest of the hill, while we went ahead, crossing innumerable shell holes and craters. Nobody paid any attention to the whining shells and bursts of machine-gun and automatic-rifle fire cutting the air above our heads. Everywhere we saw shattered pillboxes, dugouts and concrete forts, churned-up anti-tank ditches, smashed barbed-wire entanglements and German dead—evidence of our whirlwind barrage.



IN LIBERATED SEVASTOPOL — Men of the Black Sea Fleet, heroes of the final battle for the city

Radiofoto

Only this morning prisoners spoke of the impregnable inner belt of the city's fortifications. They said it was held by a fresh division of picked troops with orders to hold out to the last. But within a few hours this impregnable defense line was destroyed, with its garrison. Ahead we could see the backs of Germans fleeing to the opposite bank, and away to the right were crowds of bewildered prisoners seeking shelter in this inferno.

"Where's Malakhov Kurgan? You must know," asked a bewhiskered Red Army man running alongside me. He was carrying a pole to which was attached a large piece of red cloth with the words, "Long live Sevastopol!" written on it in white chalk. I pointed to the left. The Red Army man's face fell when he saw the Red Flag already flying over the famous hill.

"I'm too late," he said. And added, "Well, that's all right. I'll find a place for this flag yet!"

The first trucks appeared on the road, raising clouds of dust. Light field pieces drawn by automobiles, and rocket guns known as "Katyushas" overtook us. Tank destroyers carrying their long anti-tank rifles were moving at the double. Ammunition bearers ran past.

In front of No. 25 Istominskaya street we encountered two Sevastopol citizens—Anna Pavlovna Galich and her husband, Zakhari, an old sailor who worked in the shipyards during the siege of 1942. The woman was weeping silently and repeating through her sobs, "Sailor, sailor! How we waited. . . ."

From her we learned something about the last days of German rule in the city. The Nazis made a systematic search for the remaining inhabitants, and those whom they managed to round up were taken to Streletskaia. What happened to them there no one knew. Anna Pavlovna and her husband escaped by hiding in the quarries. All through the previous night the Germans continued to blow up storehouses, piers and buildings. Our swift attacks prevented them from wrecking a number of houses in the Korabelnaya district. Anna Pavlovna said that about an hour before we arrived the Germans were running away in terrible panic. Only a month before, these same Germans had been cold-bloodedly exterminating citizens and demolishing the remaining public monuments.

On a nearby street corner another old woman with a pail was bringing water to the soldiers from a well in the yard. This gesture of welcome, so typical of Sevastopol, deeply touched the tired and battle-heated men.

A crowd had gathered on the Twenty-Fifth of October Prospect, where a woman was presenting bouquets of fresh lilac to the scouts of one division. In Frunze street and Istorichesky, disorganized groups of Germans were still offering resistance, firing from the windows of houses, from attics and roofs.

In the late afternoon I climbed a slope leading to the quay and walked up the steps to Lenin street. The battle was still on. When darkness fell, searchlights scoured the skies for enemy planes. The Germans were dropping bombs from a great height, but these were the last stings of the beaten enemy. The fighting inside the city was dying out; the Germans were being pushed into the sea, where our fliers and sailors avenged devastated Sevastopol by sending shiploads of Fritzies to the bottom. The liberation of the martyred city was almost complete. . . .

Night passed and the sun rose over Sevastopol. Campfires were lighted among the ruins, and the few remaining inhabitants came to join the bivouacked soldiers. They talked of the future and the work that must be done to rebuild the city. That night the war had suddenly left the Crimea and receded hundreds of kilometers. The Peninsula found itself far behind the firing line.

A new battle is beginning—the battle of restoration. Sevastopol will live on. From its ruins, from the blood of the heroic Red Army men and seamen who defended it in 1942 and those who liberated it in 1944, Sevastopol will rise—to become again a great and powerful bulwark of defense on the Black Sea.

Guerrilla Commander Honored in Death

In January, 1943, a guerrilla detachment named for Stalin, which had its own town deep in the Klitnaya forests, was surrounded by a force of 10,000 Germans. The guerrillas fought off all enemy attacks, finally broke through the encirclement and made a heroic raid across the Ukraine, hammering at the German rear services.

In one of the battles, the commander, Nikolai Popudrenko, formerly secretary of the Chernigov Regional Committee, died a valorous death, and was posthumously named a Hero of the Soviet Union. Recently the ashes of the commander were transferred to Chernigov and buried in the city park beside the hero of ancient days, Prince Igor, and other outstanding patriots. Thousands of workers and comrades-in-arms came to pay him a last tribute.

Presentation of British Decorations to Members of Red Army, Navy and Soviet Merchant Marine

The ceremony of presentation of decorations conferred by King George VI of Great Britain in 1943 upon Red Army generals, officers, sergeants and rank and file, and seamen of the Soviet Merchant Marine, took place on May 10 in the British Embassy in Moscow. The decorations were awarded in recognition of gallantry and courage in the execution of assignments of the Command on the Soviet-German front of the struggle against Hitlerite Germany—the common enemy of the Soviet Union and Great Britain. Since the recipients, now engaged in combat duties, could not appear to receive the decorations personally,



Yakov Fedorenko, recently appointed Marshal of Armored and Tank Troops

Radiophoto

British Ambassador to the USSR Clark Kerr handed the orders and medals to People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Molotov, for their subsequent presentation to the persons designated.

The Order of the Grand Cross of the British Empire was conferred upon Marshal of the Soviet Union

Vasilevsky for his outstanding services as Chief of the General Staff of the Red Army.

The Order of the British Empire, Second Class, was conferred upon Lieutenant General Batov, Colonel General of Tank Troops Bogdanov, Lieutenant General Gagen, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Getman, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Kravchenko, Colonel General Moskalenko, Lieutenant General of Signal Troops Psurtsev, Lieutenant General of Artillery Semenov, Colonel General of Aviation Sudets, Lieutenant General Tanaschishin and Colonel General Shumilov.

The Order of the British Empire, Third Class, was conferred upon 50 members of the Red Army and Navy; the Order of the British Empire, Fourth Class, upon 45; the Order of the British Empire, Fifth Class, upon 59, and the Medal of the British Empire upon 15.

In addition, King George VI conferred the Distinguished Service Cross upon Captain of the Merchant Marine Sakharov, and the Order of the British Empire, Fifth Class, upon Puzyreva—for courageous action during an enemy attack against a convoy bound for the USSR from Great Britain.

Present at the ceremony were Canadian Ambassador Wilgress, Australian Minister Maloney, Counselor of the British Embassy Balfour, Chief of the British Military Mission in the USSR Lieutenant General Burrows, Chief of the Naval Section of the British Military Mission in the USSR Admiral Fisher, Chief of the Army Section of the British Military Mission in the USSR Colonel Turner, and First Secretaries of the British Embassy Bardett, Gifford, Barman, Lawrence and others.

Present on the Soviet side were Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Vyshinsky, People's Commissar of the Navy Admiral Kuznetsov, Colonel General Golikov, Colonel General of Aviation Nikitin, and officials of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Novikov, Molochkov and Pavlov, and Major General Evstigneyev and Captain of the First Rank Egipko.

Ambassador Clark Kerr spoke as follows: "Mr. Molotov, you have done me an honor by coming here today and bringing with you so distinguished a group of representatives of the Soviet Government and of the Red Army and Red Fleet. For that I should like to thank you.

"A year or so ago you permitted a similar ceremony to take place in your room at the Kremlin. That day it was high summer and the sun was streaming

in at your windows. Today the sun has hidden itself, but we need not let its caprices dispirit us. Today it is my pleasant duty to deliver to you, by command of the King, my august Sovereign, a number of decorations which His Majesty has conferred upon officers and men of the Red Fighting Forces. A glance at the names reveals that they range from a Marshal, the Chief of the Soviet General Staff, to a simple soldier; from Admirals to a gallant Russian woman who upheld the best traditions of her race in particularly hard circumstances—a wide and comprehensive list, and to me a very pleasing one,

"In themselves these decorations are but small things, when measured against the services rendered by the recipients. But it is not as such that you in this country and we in mine should judge them, for we all know what they stand for and that their value, which is high, lies in what they symbolize. They are indeed the symbols of recognition of outstanding services, of acts of uncommon gallantry, performed on this front, on land and sea, which have won your admiration and ours alike.

"In the present case they are, too, a mark of the military solidarity over three long years of two great peoples—of a close brotherhood in arms, soon, as we all know, to become closer still in a common cause against a tenacious and wicked enemy whom we are equally determined to destroy—a brotherhood which will lead us to a sure victory.

"I beg you, Mr. Molotov, when these decorations are passed on to their destination, to be so good as

to offer each one of the recipients my warm congratulations."

People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs Molotov replied: "Mr. Ambassador, it is with great satisfaction that I accept the orders and medals the King of Great Britain has awarded to generals, officers and men of the Red Army and Navy. On behalf of the Soviet Government I request you, Mr. Ambassador, to convey our gratitude to His Majesty, the King of Great Britain, and to the British Government, for the high honor they have bestowed upon the recipients.

"These decorations constitute an expression of the fighting comradeship of our peoples, which has gained strength in these years. Now the time has come when the Armed Forces of the Allies are preparing for resolute joint action against our common enemy—Hitlerite Germany—and the enemy will soon feel the power of our joint blows.

"I have no doubt that the Soviet generals, officers and men decorated with the British orders and medals will not only wear with pride these marks of great distinction, but will multiply with new exploits their services in the struggle for the complete expulsion of the Hitlerite invaders from our homeland, in the struggle to deliver our country and the Allied countries from the danger of enslavement, and to complete the defeat of our common enemy.

"I shall certainly see to it that your friendly congratulations are conveyed to the recipients when the orders and medals are presented to them."

IN THE CARPATHIAN FOOTHILLS

A special IZVESTIA correspondent with Soviet troops in the Carpathian foothills reports:

There have been no essential changes in the narrow sector of the front where I spent the last 24 hours. But what actually happened during that day of fighting?

The battalion under Officer Paramonov was ordered to dislodge the Germans from an important height, the possession of which would enable us to control the valley beneath with our fire. Paramonov knew there were four blockhouses on the summit of the height and several machine-gun nests on its slopes. The height was defended by a German-Rumanian unit.

An artillery regiment was assigned to support the Soviet battalion. Special assault groups stealthily made their way to the Hitlerites' machine-gun nests, while the battalion's main forces deployed along the slope of the height. At a signal, clouds of smoke from shell bursts smothered the summit. The as-

sault groups made short work of the enemy machine-gun nests, and the battalion rushed into the attack.

Two hours later Paramonov reported to the regiment commander: "The assignment has been fulfilled and the height captured. Thirty-six Germans and Rumanians were taken prisoner."

The fighting for the height unexpectedly proved to be a prologue to more important developments. The enemy decided to recapture not only this height but several others which had been in our hands for some weeks. About three enemy infantry regiments and tanks counter-attacked, supported by artillery and aviation. The battle lasted all day, some heights changing hands as many as three or four times, but by nightfall the enemy was bled white and everywhere hurled back to his initial lines.

There were no essential changes in this sector of the front. Yet the German-Rumanian troops lost 14 tanks and 21 guns and left about 700 dead on the battlefield, while 16 enemy planes were shot down in the air or by anti-aircraft fire.

*In the Carpathians—
at the Czechoslovak
frontier*

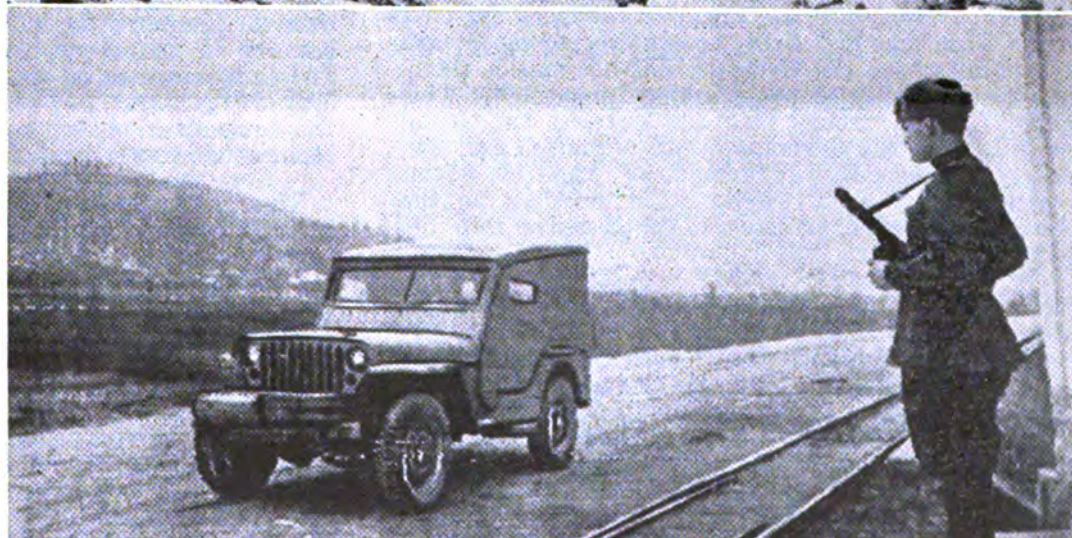
Lieutenant Colonels
Alekhnovich and Krin-
berg, regimental com-
manders, discuss plans
for a coming operation of
the Red Army



A Soviet machine gunner
firing across a rushing
mountain stream



Guarding a communica-
tion point on a road in the
Carpathians



Radiophoto

THE LIBERATION OF THE CRIMEA

By Colonel I. Korotkov

In 1941 the German army crossed the Dnieper and sped forward with the aim of depriving the Soviet Union of the Donbas coal, the Kuban grain and the Caucasian oil. Large forces dashed toward the Crimea to seize its riches. But they paid a heavy price. Soviet troops retiring into the Peninsula inflicted enormous losses upon them. It took the Germans and their Rumanian allies eight months of desperate effort to capture Sevastopol. Some 300,000 of their officers and men died outside the city walls.

In 1944, the Red Army in less than one month completely cleared the Crimean Peninsula of the German and Rumanian forces and hurled their remnants into the Black Sea.

Notwithstanding the Red Army's advance in the Ukraine west of the Dnieper, the Germans had no intention of relinquishing the Crimea. The Perekop Isthmus, Ishun and Chongar lend themselves excellently to natural defense, and the Germans made these their key positions, building powerful fortifications with deeply-echeloned intermediate and rear defense lines, manned with large forces and saturated with fire weapons. Some idea of the solidity of their defenses may be gained from the fact that it required five direct hits from medium-caliber guns to shatter one of their bunkers. The German fortified defenses in Kerch were no less formidable; the town itself was girdled with three lines of engineering works abundantly equipped with fire weapons.

The Crimea was held by the 17th German army and by Rumanian troops, and their orders were to hold the Peninsula at all costs.

The powerful offensive delivered by General Tolbukhin's troops cut the enemy's defenses in two. At the same time Red Army troops crossed the Sivash at a point where the Germans did not expect them, since they considered the crossing impossible. This brought Soviet troops into the rear of the Ishun positions, and the Germans began a hurried and disorderly retreat. By the morning of April 11, Soviet troops had completely broken the defenses on the Isthmus and were pressing their offensive into the Crimea.

Some idea of the speed of the advance and pursuit may be gained from the fact that after the breakthrough on the Isthmus, the Fourth Ukrainian Army covered 250 kilometers from the Sivash to the Black Sea in seven days, or an average of 35 kilometers a day. General Yermenko's troops acted with equal success. Their attack was preceded with prolonged artillery preparation, after which the infantry and tanks successively broke through all three defense zones covering Kerch, and on the first day advanced 30 kilometers westward. They then captured Feo-

dosia and Sudak and joined forces with the Fourth Ukrainian Front.

In difficult forest and mountain terrain, the Red Army made the fullest use of the striking power and mobility of its tank troops, motorized infantry and other arms. Mobile regiments and divisions advanced mainly along the road. Where the Germans and Rumanians attempted to stem the advance of mobile troops in the mountain defiles of the Asin, Gurzuf, Alushta and Yalta areas, Red Army assault units clambered up the mountains, boldly outflanked the enemy and quickly put a stop to these attempts. Considerable aid was rendered by the Crimean guerrillas, who cut the enemy's roads of retreat and took a heavy toll of his troops and armaments.

By April 18 all that the enemy still held of the Crimea was a small sector in the southwestern corner of the Peninsula. Here in the Sevastopol area the Germans and Rumanians managed to make a temporary stand. The nature of the terrain highly favored their defense. They set up against the Soviet troops all artillery they had managed to save in their panicky flight through the Crimea. A brief but very costly fight ensued for the capture of these fortifications. In this mountaineous and wooded area Soviet tank operations were limited, and greater importance was attached to the action of the Air Force, which carried out its task brilliantly, systematically bombing and strafing the enemy's defenses and his sea communications with Rumania.

Attacking with accumulating vigor by the end of the second day, by a ferocious struggle Soviet troops reached the near approaches to Sevastopol. On the evening and night of May 8 the Red Army repulsed over 20 counter-attacks. On the following night the assault on the city began. By a vigorous attack Soviet troops cleared the north shore of North Bay. The artillery was now able to fire over open sights at the concentrations of enemy shipping in the bays. Numerous vessels were sunk.

Then came the last act in the drama. Supported by artillery and aircraft, Soviet infantry and tanks stormed the last enemy defense line inside Sevastopol itself. Fierce fighting ensued in the ruins of the heroic city. The Germans resisted desperately, but soon the Soviet flag was flying over Sevastopol.

During the Crimean operation, from April 8 to May 12, the Red Army disabled or captured 299 tanks and self-propelled guns, 578 aircraft, 3,079 guns, 7,036 motor vehicles and other equipment; killed over 50,000 of the enemy and took 61,587 prisoners. With a salute of 324 guns Moscow announced the completion of the operation for the liberation of the Crimea.

POLISH GUERRILLAS

By Natalia Modzielewska

The guerrilla movement in Poland began in the first days of the German occupation. Soldiers and officers of the routed Polish army took shelter in the Swietokrzyskie Mountains, Kielce District, in the Tucholska Forest, where they were joined by workers, peasants and professionals who fled from the bloody Hitlerite terror. Here they formed guerrilla detachments to fight the Germans.

The armed struggle of the Polish people against the invaders developed with varying success until the middle of 1940—that is, until the defeat of France, after which the guerrilla struggle in Poland began to subside. It seemed to many there were no prospects of success in the struggle against Hitlerite Germany in Europe. The lull lasted until Germany's attack on the Soviet Union in 1941.

The example of the Red Army and its struggle against Hitlerism inspired the Polish patriots and gave them new strength. The guerrilla movement again began to develop. It gained particular momentum after the rout of the Germans before Moscow, when the Red Army dispelled the aura of "invincibility" which had surrounded the German army. After the defeat of the German army at Stalingrad, the guerrilla movement became widespread in Poland. Today it represents a formidable force behind the enemy lines.

The guerrilla detachments have grown into strong military formations. In some places entire guerrilla brigades have been formed. Detachments of the People's Guard are active throughout the land. Lately the People's Guard has been reorganized into a People's Army. From isolated armed clashes with enemy detachments and assassinations of German officials and policemen, the Polish guerrillas passed to organized attacks on German guards at railroad stations and on garrisons in the towns. In the spring of 1943, a guerrilla detachment surrounded the town of Tomaszow in the Province of Lublin, wiped out its German garrison, destroyed or seized the enemy's supplies and withdrew in perfect order.

In 1944 the guerrillas by a surprise attack captured the town of Radomsk, released political prisoners, wrecked factories producing for the Germans and withdrew to safety before the remnants of thearrison could summon reinforcements.

Polish guerrillas carried out attacks on enemy garrisons at Busy, Naleczwow and other towns. Peasants have formed battalions to defend their villages against punitive expeditions and confiscation of property. After bloody engagements with the enemy, men of the battalions usually return to their villages and

become "peaceful" peasants again. The guerrillas ever more frequently blow up bridges, wreck German ammunition trains in the Kielce District, coal trains in Silesia, and trains loaded with grain in the Provinces of Lublin and Pomorze.

The guerrillas enjoy the support of the whole people. The Germans try vainly to intimidate the population by terror, by exterminating the families of the guerrillas—sparing neither aged nor infants—and by inflicting the death penalty on all who assist the guerrillas directly or indirectly, or fail to denounce them. They try without success to bribe the people, promising them large sums of money and land allotments for reporting guerrillas or lending assistance in hunting them down. The citizens help the guerrillas, shelter them in their homes and supply them with food, linen and clothing. The Polish peasants and townspeople know the guerrillas are their protectors, avengers of their sufferings and champions of their liberation.

Many commanders of guerrilla detachments are famous throughout Poland. The name of Jendrus has become a legend in the Province of Lublin; it is believed to be the *nom de guerre* of Andrzej Jasinski, whose detachment has distinguished itself by fearless attacks on German troop trains and garrisons. In their impotent rage the Germans arrested everyone named Jasinski in the Kielce District, but could not find the guerrilla leader.

With the Red Army's advance and the extension of the front line to the borders of Poland, the guerrillas have increased their activity behind the enemy lines. In the western regions of the Ukraine they have been operating with the Soviet Byelorussian and Ukrainian guerrillas.

In 1941 Jozef Sobieski organized the first guerrilla detachment in Volhynia. He soon became a terror to the German garrisons at Kovel, Kamien, Rafalovka, Luberov, Manievich and Rogozin. His detachment expanded into a brigade, and has already wrecked 45 trains. For bravery and distinguished action against the Hitlerite invaders, Sobieski has been decorated with the Soviet Order of Lenin, and the Presidium of the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR has awarded him the Virtuti Military Cross.

In the summer of 1942, Jan Buzynski organized the Polish Anti-fascist Committees for the struggle against the Germans, and in the autumn of the same year launched the guerrilla struggle. He secured arms and formed a detachment about a hundred

(Continued on page eight)

Symphonies Written Under Contract

By V. Surin

The author of this article is director of the Department of Musical Institutions of the Committee on Arts of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR.

Some people might consider that music, an art in which inspiration reigns supreme, is intolerant of all outside interference and not amenable to advance planning. Yet in the Soviet Union musical compositions are written on stated themes and within stated periods, on the basis of Government contracts. Orders are placed on behalf of the Government by the Committee on Arts of the Council of People's Commissars.

Naturally when such orders are given, the particular musical style and inclinations of a given composer are taken into account. In fact, it is left to him to suggest the theme best suited to his creative individuality. Many contracts are the result of applications by the composers themselves. Good fees are paid for compositions written under Government contract. For example, the usual price for a symphony is 10,000 rubles. This relieves the composer of material cares while he is engaged on his work. In addition, the composer is paid a lump sum by the State Musical Publishing House on publication of his score, and also receives royalties, amounting to a certain percentage of the takings, at every public performance of his works in any concert hall of the Soviet Union. There is a special Government organ-

ization whose job it is to see that royalties are deducted and paid regularly to the composers.

Since the outbreak of war a large number of musical works of every description from operas to army songs have been written under this scheme of contracts. Such eminent composers as Dmitri Shostakovich, Sergei Prokofiev, Nikolai Myaskovsky, Aram Khachaturyan, Ivan Dzerzhinsky and Vano Muradeli write under Government contract.

Eleven large symphonies were written to contracts in a single year. One of the youngest Soviet composers, Tikhon Khrennikov, has recently written his second symphony under contract. Vissarion Shebalin, director of the Tchaikovsky Musical Academy in Moscow, wrote his *Russian Overture*, his *Variations on Russian Themes* and his *Quartet on Slavonic Themes* under contract. Lev Knipper wrote his *General Dovator* overture and his *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra* to contract. Especially worthy of mention is a new symphony by the Uzbek composer Ashraf, recently performed to a highly appreciative audience in Moscow. This work creates a foundation for the symphonic music of Uzbekistan.

Government contracts for symphonies have been signed with Aram Khachaturyan, Vano Muradeli, Vissarion Shebalin, Lev Polovinkin, Nikolai Chernodji, Boris Pyatoshinsky and other composers.

POLISH GUERRILLAS

(Continued from page seven)

strong, which routed the German garrisons in Kolki, Biala, Udritsk, Vysotsk and Dombrovitsa. Later he joined forces with a Russian detachment and blew up the strategically important bridge above Horyn. From June to September, 1943, his detachment disrupted traffic on the Sarny-Luninec railway line. For this Buzynski was cited by the General Staff of the Red Army. His detachment, which has since become a brigade, has wrecked 60 German trains, and Buzynski has received the Virtuti Military Cross.

Since 1939, Jozef Konwerski has been in the underground movement directed against the Germans in the neighborhood of Kovel. In 1943 he organized

a guerrilla detachment named for Wanda Wasilewska. Konwerski evacuated many thousands of Poles and Jews to guerrilla-controlled districts, thus saving them from extermination. He died in action and was posthumously decorated by the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR.

The guerrilla struggle in Poland is gaining in strength and scope, despite the orders of the Polish "government-in-exile" in London, which has been calling upon the people to assume an attitude of waiting and has been inciting its followers against honest patriots fighting the Hitlerite invaders.

The day is near when the guerrillas will join forces with the Red Army and the Polish Army in the USSR—on Polish soil. By joint efforts they will smash the Hitlerite invaders and free enslaved Poland.

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THE PAST WEEK ON THE SOVIET-GERMAN FRONT

By Colonel Alexander Andreyev

Moscow, May 20.—During the past week there have been no essential changes on the Soviet-German front. The comparative lull continues. The most active operations are taking place southeast of Stanislav in the Ukraine, and northwest of Tiraspol in Moldavia. Here Soviet troops have been fighting off German attempts to capture advantageous positions.

Northwest of Tiraspol the enemy tried to clear Soviet troops from a bridgehead they had taken on the western bank of the Dniester. The enemy concentrated large tank and infantry forces and on May

11 and 12 by incessant attacks tried to crush the Soviet troops.

In two days of fighting Red Army troops repulsed all attacks of infantry and tanks supported by large number of aircraft. The enemy lost heavily but failed to score any success. In the two days Soviet Guardsmen wiped out over 4,000 fascist troops. On May 12 Soviet fliers shot down 23 German planes in air combats in this area.

After this defeat the Hitlerite command spent several days putting its battered units in order. After



Shepherds of Tajikistan gather to listen to the latest news from the front

May 12 the enemy tried to resume his attacks, but sustained losses and retreated to his initial positions. On May 17 Red Army units by a sudden thrust captured advantageous positions on the west bank of the Dniester northwest of Tiraspol, inflicting telling losses on the enemy.

Engagements of local importance were fought in the area southeast of Stanislav. Soviet troops repulsed attacks and in one sector, on May 17, captured enemy trenches and took prisoners and booty.

In other sectors of the front patrols were active.

The past week was marked by the growing activity of Soviet long-range aviation. Large formations of bombers acted on a wide front, from Port Kirkenes in northern Norway and ports on the Gulf of Finland to the Rumanian shores. Especially powerful blows were dealt by Soviet bombers to railway junctions in the Baltic Republics, Byelorussia and the Western Ukraine.

Soviet bombers are effecting mass raids nightly on the most vital rail centers of the enemy's key communications. Dvinsk, an important railway center of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic was attacked

from the air on the nights of May 12 and 14. Simultaneously our aircraft raided the Tartu rail center in the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic. On the nights of May 13 and 16, mass air raids were carried out on the large Byelorussian rail centers of Minsk, Baranovichi and Polotsk, where German military trains and military stores were the targets.

Concentrated blows were also dealt by Soviet bombers to large operational centers of the enemy communications west of Lvov and Kovel. Soviet aircraft bombed the vital railway junctions of Rava-Russkaya, Stryi, Kholm and Brest. The bombing caused numerous fires accompanied by explosions. Several enemy troop trains were smashed by direct bomb hits.

The Soviet Fleet Air Arm struck successfully at enemy ships, convoys and ports in northern Norway, in the Gulf of Finland and off the Rumanian coast. Mass air raids on the enemy's most important communications in the North, in the Baltic Sea, and in the Black Sea, are causing heavy losses to the Hitlerites, hampering the concentration of enemy troops and dislocating his supply system and maneuvering operations.

PLANS FOR THE NEW SEVASTOPOL

Sevastopol, converted by the German-Rumanian troops into a maze of ruins, is healing its grave wounds and returning to life. The people have already begun to clean up their city; hundreds are working in the streets, clearing thoroughfares and parks of debris, removing barricades and stacking construction materials. Factories are humming with restoration work. The first group of young workers have arrived from Irkutsk to help in the rebuilding.

Yefremov, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and Chairman of the Sevastopol City Soviet, states: "Sevastopol citizens have enthusiastically set to work to restore their city. Tunnels which had been blown up or had caved in are being cleared. Telephone communications have already been repaired and our first mail of 3,000 letters has been received.

"The town is preparing to welcome the first railway train. The Molot works has begun turning out products, and shops in other factories will soon be rehabilitated. Two polyclinics and one disinfecting center have been reopened. Much attention is being paid to the food supply. A fishermen's cooperative has brought in its first ton of fresh fish, but the people requested that this be turned over to the Red Army. Dozens of hectares of vegetable gardens have already been planted.

"Actors of the Moscow Art Theater have arrived in the city and given their first performance. In

one basement which miraculously escaped destruction a cinema theater has been opened."

A number of prominent Soviet architects are busy with plans for the restoration of Sevastopol. Academician Ginsburg told of the progress of this work.

"I began to draw preliminary plans for the new Sevastopol in 1943, when the city and all the Crimea were still in the hands of the Germans. I feel that our principal task is to express in monumental design and sculpture the heroic past of this city of Russian glory.

"Istoricheskyy boulevard is to become one of the main architectural components of restored Sevastopol. On this boulevard, near the ruins of the fourth bastion of the first defense of the city (1854-55) and on the site of the building which housed the famous painting commemorating the victory—the Panorama of the Defense of Sevastopol—will be erected monuments, museums and a new building in which the Panorama [which was safely evacuated] will be placed.

"Wide streets lined with trees and white houses built in modern style will form the central part of the city. The new Sevastopol will be nearer to the sea. Parks and squares will be laid out along the shore, stadiums will be built, and wide stairways will lead down to the beaches."

The Funeral of Patriarch Sergius

By Mikhail Nikolayev

Sergius, Patriarch of all Russia, died on May 15 and was buried with great ceremony on May 18.

The death of this eminent churchman and patriot was unexpected. On May 14 he performed the divine service and inducted a new bishop, Makar of Mozhaisk. Just before his death he also presided at a meeting of the Holy Synod.



The late Sergius, Patriarch of all Russia

The body of the Patriarch lay in state in the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Yelokhovskaya Square in Moscow, reposing on a high pedestal and almost

buried under wreaths and flowers. By the testament of the late Patriarch, opened after his death, Alexei, Metropolitan of Leningrad, has been appointed Patriarchal Incumbent. The burial service was performed on May 18 by the Patriarchal Incumbent, supported by Metropolitans Nikolai Krutitsky and Johann of Kiev, and archbishops, bishops and clergy.

The burial service was pervaded with a spirit of profound grief for the death of the Patriarch. The *Requiem* was sung by a splendid choir conducted by Victor Komarov, and also a choir of the parishioners, who were deeply attached to the late Patriarch. There were moving moments when the entire congregation took part in the singing. "I Believe!" and "Christ Has Risen!" were sung by several thousand voices.

Patriarchal Incumbent Alexei delivered a funeral oration in which he drew a splendid portrait of the late Patriarch and spoke of his lofty efforts for the welfare of the Orthodox Church. He dwelt particularly upon Patriarch Sergius' activities during the Patriotic War. When the Germans treacherously invaded Russian soil, the Patriarch called upon all Orthodox believers to resist and to fight courageously for their country. Patriarch Sergius embodied the finest traits of the great Russian churchmen and patriots such as Patriarch Hermogen and Sergius of Radonezh.

The *Requiem* was followed by the burial service. The congregation held flickering candles whose light was reflected in the gold and silver embroidery of the magnificent apparel worn by the higher clergy.

After the service the coffin was carried around the Cathedral in solemn procession, and to the tolling of funeral bells the body of Sergius, Patriarch of all Russia, was laid to rest in the northern corner of the Cathedral.

* * *

The new Patriarchal Incumbent, Alexei, remained in Leningrad all through the siege of that heroic city. During those trying times he inspired the inhabitants to remain staunch in their defense and to bear courageously all hardships connected with the inhuman bombing and shelling of the city by the German barbarians. On his initiative the churches of Leningrad collected large sums for the National Defense Fund. Metropolitan Alexei was himself awarded the medal, "For the Defense of Leningrad."

HORSEMAN IN ARMOR

By Evgeny Krieger

The Germans began the war in Russia with tanks. They had any number of them. And taking advantage of this numerical superiority, they not so much cut as forced deep wedges into our territory. But then everything went wrong.

It is now the Soviet tanks which are advancing. And the style of their advance is different from that displayed by the Germans, even in their best days. The Russian tactics are different, the crews are different, and the Germans are all bewildered.

You would understand what I mean by the difference between Soviet and German tankmen if you could meet Major Kharum Bogatiryov. He is still quite young, but he has behind him Orel, Kharkov and Kiev, Valuiki, Chuguyev, Rossosh, Fastov, Korostyshev and Zhitomir. He has been wounded three times but they were multiple splinter wounds, so that he has 22 scars on his body instead of three. He has had seven escapes from burning tanks. After the battle of the Dnieper he was named a Hero of the Soviet Union.

Kharum began life as a stableman in the village of Djigutinsky, near the Cossack village of Nevinno-mysskaya. Later he decided to become a chemist, and entered college. But then the war came. Kharum was not assigned at once to the tanks. He admits he ought really to have been a cavalryman. He has been riding, saddle and bareback, since the age of eight. All the same he became a tank officer, and now you could not part him from tanks for love or money, at least not until the end of the war. Kharum Bogatiryov makes nonsense of the Germans' stereotyped tactics.

An 'Impossible' Task

In the course of a recent battle the commander called Kharum to the telephone, and ordered him to capture a certain hill, which others had failed to take. In the preceding assault, losses had been very severe, and the commander understood that he was entrusting Kharum with a commission which was not only difficult, but practically impossible.

"I'll give you four self-propelled guns," he said. "You've four tanks of your own, and you'll pick up infantry in the field. As to the rest, you'll have to rely on yourself. But that hill has to be taken."

At the time of this telephone conversation, Kharum already had two wounds, one in each arm, but he said nothing about it to the commander. The Germans on the hill had a striking force of Tigers and Ferdinands. From their trenches they had a view for about 15 miles around. They were quite sure

that the Russians, with the small forces they had at their disposal on this sector, would never be mad enough to attempt to carry the hill by storm.

That night Kharum reinforced his group with three more tanks which had just left the repair shops, borrowed seven anti-tank guns from a neighboring unit, formed a detachment of about a hundred infantrymen, and decided that for better or worse, he had a force strong enough to attempt the assault.

In the morning Kharum began the attack. In defiance of all German traditions, he drew out his tanks and self-propelled guns in one line, in which he also placed his infantry, covering them with the fire of seven guns. Then, without any artillery preparation, he dashed for the hill.

He himself, in order to see better and to be seen better by his troops, proceeded on foot, under fire, a revolver in one hand and a rocket pistol in the other. Using red, white and green signals he directed the movement of tanks, infantry and guns.

Nazi Handbooks Fail

The essence of the maneuver was the unexpected concentration of all forces on one main objective. Elaborating his signals by word of mouth and imperative gestures, Kharum was able to secure complete coordination of men and machines. The Germans, whose handbooks contained no mention of a maneuver of this type, lost their heads and missed the psychological moment, so that when their Tigers and Ferdinands at last appeared over the crest of the hill, Kharum's guns shot them up on the slope, and his tanks and infantry were already on top of the trenches. The caterpillar tracks did their job: grenades, in the succeeding hand-to-hand scrap, finished it. Kharum fired his last rocket from the top of the hill. It signaled "We're here!" He hadn't lost a single tank in the action.

"I was born to fight on horseback," Kharum Bogatiryov says deprecatingly, as though rather ashamed of it. "But what can you do, when the Army needs tankmen? And you know, our tanks often act like cavalry. The Germans look on the tank as just a big machine, but when I'm sitting in my tank I feel it's alive. I've stopped longing for a horse now."

Kharum has remained a horseman, but a horseman in armor.

The Germans rack their brains trying to discover the secret of Soviet offensive tactics. They cannot understand that the strength of the Red Army lies not only in new tactics born in battle, but also in the wrath and fury of the people, and in the fierce hatred men like Kharum feel for the enemy.

REVIVAL OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN UKRAINE

By Major D. Novopolyansky

In the western regions of the Ukraine the sun rises later than in Moscow and Kiev. It lights up the streets of the small liberated villages and smiles warmly upon children again hurrying to school. For a long while the sun had seen no schoolchildren in this part of the Soviet Union.

Traveling through the Western Ukraine I visited the Klesov district, in Rovno Region, where the course of events since 1939 parallels that of other districts in this area.

In 1939-41, under Soviet power, the number of schools in the Klesov district was more than doubled. Ten-year schools were opened in the villages of

Tatyannoe, Gnoino, Guska, Kupye, Alexeyevka, Zagalye, Chabel and many others, where the population was formerly entirely illiterate. More than 2,300 Ukrainian, Polish and Jewish boys and girls—almost 90 per cent of the child population—took their places in school. The adults, too, were avid for knowledge, and in seven small towns adult courses for the abolition of illiteracy were opened.

The teaching personnel of Klesov district was augmented by experienced instructors. Within a short time the number of teachers increased more than fivefold, and in June, 1941 numbered 127. Textbooks, pencils, pens, ink, modern equipment for laboratories



A physics class in Moscow Trade School Number Five

and various teaching aids were sent from Kiev, Lvov and Rovno. In the local budget for 1941 the sum allotted for public education was 1,200,000 rubles, exceeding all other expenditures.

When the Germans invaded the Western Ukraine they did not at once close all the schools. Instead, they began methodically to shatter and disorganize school life, creating a situation in which the schools must wither away without possibility of revival. They dispersed, drove out and partially exterminated the teaching staff. Maria Tkachenko and other experienced teachers were driven from the schools; Leonid Freid was found in his apartment with a bullet in his head and a knife wound in his back. Ivan and Ludwiga Osukh, Polish teachers, and their two sons, were also murdered. Many teachers were killed, others tortured, and humiliations and persecutions were heaped upon all. For six months not a kopek of salary was paid them. They were finally forced to scatter, go into hiding or look for other work.

The Germans barbarously destroyed textbooks and library books. Order No. 241 of May 5, 1942, issued by the Gebietskommissariat of Sarny, reads: "Many books (libraries) political (Communist) in content remain in the village schools. It is ordered to forward all libraries to the district centers, from which they are to be delivered to the school department in Sarny for destruction." In accordance with this savage order the libraries were destroyed and the works of Pushkin, Gogol, Mickiewicz, Shevchenko and others burned. Another order, No. 388, of September 16, 1942, citing the order of the General Kommissariat of the Ukraine, demanded that pages of a propagandist nature "should be torn out of existing textbooks."

German soldiers wrecked and defiled the school-buildings and razed some of them to the ground. The

physics department of the Klesov secondary school was looted on the first day of the German occupation. Thousands of school youth were driven by force to German slave labor.

In the small town of Klesov, of 140 pupils in the Jewish junior secondary school, none remained alive—all were shot by the Nazi fiends. Of 524 school-children in the small town of Berezhnitsy, 290 were tortured and shot. The blood-curdling atrocities committed by the Germans upon the defenseless children gave the final touch to the picture of abominable "activities" of the fascist barbarians in the field of education.

But these horrors could not quench the thirst for knowledge which lived and still lives in the hearts of the people, together with the striving for freedom. Immediately after the liberation of Klesov, 260 children appeared at the secondary school, eager to resume their studies, and the same enthusiasm is manifested in every school. When the Volodimir school reopened, the teacher distributed 300 pencils which he had received from the District Department of Education in June, 1941, and hidden from the Germans. At other schools one child brought a globe, another a model of an electrical machine and still another a microscope, which they had lovingly guarded throughout the occupation. In a small town near the front a teacher showed me Soviet textbooks and library books he had buried in the ground when the Nazis came.

A truly tragic fact is that of the 127 teachers in the Klesov district, only seven remain. New forces must be trained, and they will be. Soviet life, in which schools play an inseparable part, is beginning to revive in the liberated land.

A TATAR WHO SPEAKS 25 LANGUAGES

One of the most brilliant Soviet philologists is a 27-year-old Tatar, Enver Makayev, who knows 25 languages, not including Russian and Tatar, which he regards as his native tongues. He not only reads, speaks and writes freely in all these languages, but has an excellent knowledge of their history and literature.

At 18 Makayev knew 12 languages, including English, Danish, Norwegian, Dutch and Turkish. He went to work as a translator in the Moscow Museum of the Revolution, and in 1936 enrolled at the Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages, where he studied Sanskrit, Czech, Serbian and Polish. He later took

up Finnish, Estonian, Hungarian, Italian, Rumanian and Spanish, as well as Chinese and Japanese.

After mastering the Icelandic tongue, Makayev began the compilation of an Icelandic-Russian dictionary, which will be the first of its kind. At the same time he began a major work on the history of the Swedish language, which he expects will take him 10 years to complete. He studies methodically. For example, Saturday is his "dictionary day." Surrounding himself with dictionaries in some 30 languages, he studies certain words or groups of words, seeking their common roots and comparing idioms.

Yamalo-Nenets National District

By A. Vaneyeva

The Yamalo-Nenets National District in Western Siberia, bordering on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, covers an area of 291,000 square miles (nearly the size of Great Britain and France together). The greater part of the province is covered with tundra. Winter lasts for eight to nine months and the mercury drops to 40-50 degrees below zero Centigrade. Snows are accompanied by icy winds.

Before the Revolution the district was almost completely cut off from the rest of the world in winter. Radio now maintains contact with every corner of the Soviet Union all the year round. In addition a mail and passenger air line functions regularly between Salekhard (formerly Obdorsk), the district center, and the nearest railway town, Tyumen.

The native population is composed of the Nenets, Khante (Ostyaks) and Komi (Zirani) tribes. In Tsarist times these peoples were dying out from famine and sickness. Today they are very much alive and very busy.

Collective Fisheries

The principal occupations of the population are fishing, reindeer breeding and hunting. The great rivers abound in some 30 species of fish, including turgeon. There are 13 "collective fisheries" in operation and fishing goes on day and night at all seasons of the year.

The front gets a lot of fine fish from the Yamalo-Nenets peoples. In winter the fishermen turn to under-ice fishing, which is a very difficult and complicated job in the stormy weather conditions prevailing beyond the Arctic Circle. The Salekhard canning factory annually produces million of cans of canned meat and fish, tons of salted and frozen fish concentrates and other products.

But the fishermen have strong "competitors" in their war effort. The Yamalo-Nenets District is noted for reindeer breeding. Reindeer provide the population with food, meat, material for fur-lined clothing and footwear and skins to cover tents. Three State reindeer breeding farms have been set up in the district, as well as a number of collective farms. Individual farmers also have their herds.

Hunting is well organized. Women and youth are helping in step with the men hunters. Seventeen-year-old Vela Ontu earned fame in the Nadum tundra, the northernmost part of the district. Ontu, in the Nenets language, means beauty. This young girl became popular not for her beauty, but for her skill in hunting. In one month alone she bagged 360 squirrels and 10 polar foxes and brown foxes.

The first silver fox breeding farm was organized in 1936, near Salekhard. That was the first step in developing this new industry in the district. In a short time this farm considerably increased the number of silver foxes and in 1940 made a net profit of 90,000 rubles. Several other Nenets collective farms have taken up this occupation.



Red Army men of the Komi Autonomous Republic, who fight on the Karelian Front, listen to the reading of a newspaper in their native language

Radiophoto

Considerable progress has been made in recent years in agriculture, a new branch of economy in this district. But a short time ago farming was considered impossible in the Polar Regions. Vegetables are now successfully raised out of doors in the fields, as well as in hothouses.

Good crops of potatoes, cabbage, turnips and other vegetables are produced every year by the Salekhard State farm and experimental stations. These agricultural achievements were reflected at the All-Union Agricultural Exhibit in 1940 in Moscow. The Salekhard station had already reaped its first harvest of barley.

The entire population was formerly illiterate. Today there are 46 schools where children are taught in their native language. Vocational schools have been established. There are many clubs, a library and a museum in Salekhard.

Month by month, fresh supplies of foodstuffs, fish and furs pour out to the distant battle front. Nomadic people travel hundreds of miles to Salekhard bringing gifts of fur-lined clothing, reindeer skins, gold and silver articles and even live reindeer for the Soviet warriors.

Military Hospital Archives

By N. Shlyarnikov

The Central State Military Hospital Archives of the USSR were founded 125 years ago. Of modest proportions at the beginning, the Archives have become a great scientific research center, with an enormous fund of valuable historical documentary material on the military institutions of Russia from the 18th to the 20th Centuries. Housed in the huge palace of Lefort, a friend of Peter I, the documents, all minutely classified, are at the disposal of historians and Red Army officers for study and research.

The material is not limited to documents relating to wars waged by Russia. There is also a rich collection of archives of the 17th to the 20th Centuries, dealing with the national and colonial policy of Tsarist Russia, the peasant movement and international relations; also abundant material on the economics and geography of the country and its minerals, on the revolutionary movement and on the international position of the European states. During the present war the attention of research workers has been directed more particularly to documents about the campaigns of the great Russian generals of the past.

Among the innumerable historians, writers and investigators who made use of the Archives in pre-Soviet days was Pushkin, the great Russian poet, who examined documents relating to the Pugachev rebellion. Leo Tolstoy also visited the repository during the creation of his classic *War and Peace* and his *Sevastopol Tales*.

Since the October Revolution, members of the Academy of Sciences, of military and literary organizations, of the People's Commissariats and of institutes and museums have been assiduous patrons of the reading room. Monographs and articles on such subjects as Russian artillery in the Seven Years' War, the first Russian project for a submarine, and the role of the Russian Army against the Germans in 1914-18 have recently been published.

The following works based on materials in the Archives are now ready for printing: "History of Air Navigation and Aviation in Russia," "Warplanes (1870 to 1914)," "The Hygiene Service of the Russian Army in the War of 1914-18" and a "Great Russian Generals" series on Alexander Suvorov, Mikhail Kutuzov and Peter Bagration.

A FACTORY FOR FACTORIES

By I. Andronov

Igor Romanov is just 16. He was born in a village near a great trunk railway, and from the time he could walk his favorite pastime was to watch the huge engines streak past with thundering power. Igor did not want to be a locomotive engineer, however. His ambition was to work in a plant where engines were built—to become a builder of engines himself.

"You must study first," his father told him, "before you can think of entering a factory."

Then Igor's father went into the Red Army, and the boy realized his dream: at the age of 15 he went to work in a "factory for factories," where he now heads one of the leading youth brigades. It was the happiest moment of his life when he was put in charge of a group of turners working on a new and powerful engine. The day it left the shop was a holiday for the 6,500 young workers in the "factory for factories."

When you ask the young people what they mean by this expression, they tell you proudly: "We create

echelons of new equipment and machinery for the ferrous metallurgical industry, electric power stations and railways."

Steam boilers and turbines, hoisting cranes with a lifting capacity of 220 tons, giant Diesel engines, locomotives, metallurgical machinery—this is the kind of thing they turn out. The Soviet ferrous metallurgical industries need vast quantities of blast and open-hearth furnace equipment and other metallurgical machinery. As the areas of the industrial south are liberated, the demand grows. The volume of production exceeds all prewar records.

Many of the largest machine-building enterprises are evacuees, shipped from the front-line zone in the big trek to the east. Their record output has been achieved in the face of grave initial shortages of equipment, tools and materials. The creative spirit of the engineers and workers, builders and designers of the "factory for factories" has been of the greatest service to the country.

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Statement of Extraordinary State Committee

For the ascertaining and investigation of crimes committed by the German-fascist invaders and their associates, and the damages caused by them to citizens, collective farms, public organizations, State enterprises and institutions of the USSR

On the Plan of the Hitlerite High Command and the German Army to Exterminate Soviet People by Spreading a Typhus Epidemic Among Them

In its previous communiques the Extraordinary State Committee published a number of documents convicting the Hitlerite government and the High Command of the German army of mass extermination of the Soviet civilian population.

With especial cruelty the German invaders and their accomplices tormented, tortured and massacred Soviet people in concentration camps set up in the rear of the German army. Not only military, but all other occupation authorities used the necessity for evacuating the Soviet population from the front zone as a pretext for setting up these camps.

It has now been established that, following the defeats of the German army on the Soviet-German front and the changed situation, the German-fascist scoundrels began widely to practice new brutal methods of exterminating Soviet people. One such method is the spreading of a typhus epidemic among the Soviet population and Red Army troops, for which purpose, as has been ascertained, the Hitlerites set up special concentration camps at the forward edge of their defense.

Camps in Swamps

On March 19, 1944, in the area of the small town of Ozarichi in the Polesye Region of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, advancing units of the Red Army discovered three concentration camps at the forward edge of the German defenses, in which there were over 33,000 children and invalid women and old men. The first of these camps was located in a swamp at the Dert settlement, the second two kilometers northwest of the town of Ozarichi, and the

third in a swamp two kilometers west of the village of Podossinnik.

The circumstances connected with the establishment of these camps have been investigated by a Special Commission consisting of the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the Byelorussian SSR, PONOMARENKO; GREKOVA, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian Republic; YAKUB KOLAS, Member of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences; GRISHKO, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; Major General of Commissary Service SAKOVICH, and Chief of Army Medical Service Lieutenant Colonel KOLODKIN, with the participation of KUDRYAVTSEV, representative of the Extraordinary State Committee.

The camps consisted of open ground fenced off with barbed wire. The approaches were mined. There were no buildings even of a light type on the territory of the camps. The prisoners were kept on bare ground. Many had lost the ability to move about and lay unconscious in the mud. The prisoners were forbidden to build fires or to collect brushwood to lie upon. The Hitlerites shot Soviet citizens for the slightest attempt to violate this regime.

When setting up the concentration camps at the forward edge of the defenses the Germans, firstly, selected as sites for camps areas where they had no hope of retaining their positions; secondly, they concentrated great masses of Soviet people in the camps, placing there mainly children and invalid women and old men; thirdly, in the camps, together with the exhausted and invalid population who lived in unhygienic conditions, they placed thousands of typhus cases specially brought there from various temporarily occupied districts of the Byelorussian Republic.

Among those liberated from the camps were 15,960 children under 13 years of age, 13,072 invalid women and 4,448 old men.

Town Cordoned Off

Investigation has established that the fascist scoundrels herded the entire Soviet civilian population into deportation camps under the pretext of evacuating the population from the front zones. In the town of Zhlobin the German Commandant's office broadcast the following address to the population:

"Citizens of the town of Zhlobin, the German Command is sending you to the deep rear as the Red Army men are going to shell you from guns and mortars. Desiring to save you from Bolshevik atrocities, we are evacuating you to the deep rear. Take along all your belongings, horses, carts, cattle. Take along pots and spoons, as you will be given hot food on the way. Obey the German soldiers, do not hide and do not run away. The whole town is cordoned off by German troops. Anyone who tries to hide or run away will be shot. Go out into the street, and go where you are directed by the German soldiers."

According to the plan worked out beforehand, the German-fascist authorities organized deportation stations to which they drove the entire civilian population. There the Germans first picked out the able-bodied men, women and children over 13 years of age and dispatched them to forced labor in Germany. The remaining children and invalid adults were sent to concentration camps at the forward edge of the defenses.

Between March 9 and 13, 1944 the Hitlerites drove tens of thousands of Soviet people, under reinforced escort of SS and Security Police, to camps in the area of the small town of Ozarichi and to deportation stations near the stations of Rudobelka, Rabkor, Starushka and Krashy Bereg, and the inhabited localities of Mikul-Gorodok, Poroslishche and Medvedovka.

"At dawn on March 12, 1944," stated Maz, a schoolteacher, "the Germans drove us residents of the town of Zhlobin to the school building beyond the railway line. There they picked out all the able-bodied people, and put the remaining old men, children and women aboard a train—60 to 70 persons in each cold, unheated car. Under exceptionally hard, unhygienic conditions, in cold and in filth, we were brought to Rabkor station and driven to a camp three kilometers from the station. Many children froze to death and died in the cars from cold and hunger. Many old men and women and children collapsed on the way to the camp."

Pekarskaya, a woman liberated from the camp, testified before the Commission: "Toward evening

on March 12, 1944 we residents of Zhlobin were forced to gather at Zhlobin-Yuzhnaya railway station at 3 minutes' notice. There the Germans picked out the young folk and led them away. Then they drove us into box cars and closed the doors tightly. We did not know where we were being taken, but all had grave forebodings.

"As it later transpired, we were driven along the Rudobelka branch line, and detrained toward evening on March 15. At night we were driven to a camp, knee-deep in sticky mud. From this camp we were driven to another. On the way the Germans beat us and shot those who fell behind.

"One of the women had three children with her. One tiny tot fell down. A German shot him. When the mother and the other two children looked around in horror, the soldier-beasts shot at them one after another. The mother gave heart-rending screams but they were cut short by a point-blank shot.

"The Bondarevs were there, mother and son. The child was unable to stand the exhausting trip and fell down. His mother bent over him. She wanted to comfort him, but neither son nor mother got up again or saw the blue sky—the Germans shot them."

Dogs Set on Women

Lyasovaya, a woman from the village of Maletskaya Rudnya, testified: "On the way to the camp a group of tired Soviet citizens sat down to rest. The Gestapo man escorting us set dogs on us, and they badly mauled the woman Kvyatkovskaya and others."

"Before my eyes," states Buslov, resident of the Avangard State farm, "citizen Krek, from the village of Mikhailovskaya, mother of three children, was killed in the camp by the Germans because she made a few steps beyond the barbed-wire in order to gather dry twigs for a fire."

Manko, a resident of the village of Kovalki, testified: "Ditches filled with dirty swamp water were dug next to the barbed-wire fence which surrounded the camp. Many putrified bodies lay in them. The Germans did not give us drinking water, and we had to get it from the ditches."

Beznivets, a resident of the village of Gaduni, testified: "The camp in which I was kept had a barbed-wire fence around it and was mined. Prisoners who tried to go beyond the camp to fetch water or wood were beaten up or shot. Mokryak, mother of four children, from the village of Sloboda in Domanovich district, was killed like that."

The German-fascist invaders confiscated clothing and everything of value that the Soviet citizens imprisoned in the camps still had. Shulyarenko, from the village of Davidovich, testified: "Fifty German

soldiers came to the camp. They had clubs in their hands. They inspected the prisoners, and when they found good garments or shoes on anyone they took them away. Anyone who resisted was clubbed. I myself saw the German soldiers strip women of their chiefs, overcoats and shoes."

typhus Deliberately Spread

On the basis of material before the above Commission, Academician Trainin, a member of the Extraordinary State Committee, and a Commission of Medical Experts, conducted a supplementary investigation which established that the German military authorities deliberately, with a view to spreading



Academician Alexei Tolstol, noted Soviet author, is member of the Extraordinary State Committee for Investigation of German-fascist crimes

typhus, placed typhus cases together with the healthy people confined in the concentration camps at the forward edge of the German defenses.

Typhus cases were brought by the Germans to these camps from inhabited localities of the Polesye, Minsk, Gomel and other regions of the Byelorussian Republic.

Labeznikova, a woman resident of the village of Zabolotye, stated to the Commission: "The Germans came to our house. On learning that I was sick with typhus they sent two soldiers that same day and drove me to camp in a cart."

Sheptunova, from the village of Solonovoye, stated: "The Germans drove the entire population of our village to the village of Vorotyn, where there were cases down with typhus. Then all the residents of Vorotyn, including the sick, were dispatched to the concentration camp located in the vicinity of the small town of Ozarichi."

Mitrakhovich, a resident of the village of Novobelitsa, stated: "Those of us who were sick with typhus were taken to a camp fenced off with barbed wire in the vicinity of the village of Mikul-Gorodok."

Gavrilchik, a resident of the village of Novogrudok, stated: "For three days typhus cases were brought in trucks to the camp, and as a result many inmates of the camp who had been in good health fell sick. On the night of March 15 to 16 very many prisoners died of typhus."

Segregation Refused

Dushovskaya, a resident of the village of Pgantsy, stated: "The Germans brought people stricken with typhus to our camp from the village of Novchitsy, in the Parachi district. We knew that we might infect those in good health, and we asked the Germans to separate us from the healthy people, but they took no notice."

In the camps at the forward edge of their defenses the fascists placed not only healthy and sick people from deportation stations, but also hospital typhus cases.

Tretyakova, from the village of Zamoshchany, stated: "I fell ill in February and was put in a hospital in the village of Leski. I lay in the hospital on the floor in my clothes. We received no medical aid. Then the Germans sent me from the hospital to a concentration camp near the village of Dert."

Shirokov, a resident of Zhlobin, stated: "On March 12, 200 typhus cases were taken out of Zhlobin hospital. All the patients were sent to camp."

Romanenko stated to the Commission: "While in the concentration camp I saw a large group of residents of the town of Zhlobin suffering from typhus. They lay on the wet ground, in the mud. There were dead bodies among them. Several persons crawled about in the mud in delirium. There were no doctors around. Among the sick I saw the Zhlobin citizens Shchuklin and Gurskaya. They told me that, sick with typhus, they were taken to the camp from the town hospital."

Similar testimony was given to the Commission by the following Soviet citizens, former inmates of the concentration camps: Zhdanovich, Zaitseva, Russinovich, Reshotko, Anissinova, Drobeza, Novik, Veros, Kovalenko, Bondarenko, Dovydenko, and many others.

Typical Cases

Thus the fact that the Germans deliberately brought typhus cases to the camps in order to spread an epidemic of typhus among the Soviet population has been proven irrefutably by the testimony of numerous Soviet citizens who were forcibly sent by the German authorities to the concentration camps on the fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth day after they went down with typhus.

There follow a number of cases of this kind, proven by documents which, however, form only an insignificant part of all the numerous registered facts: Boloiko, from the village of Barbaru, was sent to camp on the seventh day after she fell ill with typhus. Her four children—Nikolai (11), Nina (nine), Lyubov (seven), and Vasili (five)—fell sick on the way to the camp.

The following people were dispatched to camp on the fifth to ninth day of sickness: Krek, from the village of Sloboda; Novik, from the village of Yurki; Kovalenko, from the village of Lomovichi; Parkhomenko, from the village of Zamoshchany; Reshotko, from the village of Khomichi; Poluchin, from the village of Detbin; Golub, from the village of Podvetki; Kruk, from the village of Goduni; Evstratovskaya, from the village of Kovalki; and many others.

The following people caught typhus in the concentration camps: Zemzhetskaya, from the village of Buda; Romanov, from the village of Belitsa; Ventsov, from the village of Zapolye; Belko, from the village of Volosovichi; Poshchen, from the village of Poroslishche; Drozdova, from the village of Komadovka; Yashchuk, from the village of Ivanishche; Patsay, from the village of Gar; Daineko, from the village of Pruzilishche; Kozlova, from the village of Novoselki; Shkutova, from the village of Godinovichi; Dryzhkova, from the village of Raduzha; Antonik, from the village of Treitsy; Udot, from the village of Zakerichi; and many others.

Inoculated Spies Left Behind

The German army command specially dispatched to the camps located at the forward edge of their defenses, agents, whose duty it was to check up on the spread of the typhus epidemic among the population and in Red Army units.

The detained German agent Rastoruyev, of Intelligence Group 308, stated: "On March 11, 1944, ac-

companied by the Chief of Group 308 Oberleutnant of the German army Kerst, I was brought by car to a railway station 40 or 45 kilometers south of the town of Glusk. In the evening he told me that I would be sent for a time to a camp for the civilian population 30 kilometers from that station.

"Kerst explained to me that in that camp there were about 40,000 Soviet civilians, including about 7,000 typhus cases, and that within the next three or four days about 20,000 more civilians would be sent to this camp. I was given an anti-typhus injection.

"The assignment given me by the Chief of Group 308 was as follows: to get to the camp located west of the village of Ozarichi and to stay there unnoticed among the mass of people. I was to ascertain what the Red Army units did with the civilian population when the camps were in the Red Army's hands where the women and children were sent, what was done with the sick. After fulfillment of this assignment I was to return to the German side and report the data I had collected."

The deliberate spreading of a typhus epidemic among the Soviet civilian population confined by the German authorities in concentration camps at the forward edge of the defenses is corroborated also by data of the medico-legal experts.

The Commission of Medico-Legal Experts, consisting of Army Epidemiologist Lieutenant Colonel YULAYEV, Army Medico-Legal Expert Major ALEXOYEV, and Chief of the Army Pathological Anatomy Laboratory Major BUTYANIN, ascertained that in order to infect Soviet people with typhus:

"(a) The German authorities placed in concentration camps people in good health and typhus-stricken Soviet citizens (epidanamneses Nos. 158, 180, 161, 164, 178, 183, etc.).

"(b) To accelerate the spreading of typhus in the camps, the Germans practiced the transfer of typhus cases from one camp to another; (data of epidanamneses, of clinical and serological examinations Nos. 2, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, etc.).

"(c) When typhus patients refused to go to the camps, the German authorities resorted to violence (protocols of examination Nos. 269, 270, 271, 272).

"(d) The German invaders transferred typhus cases from hospitals and mixed them with healthy people in the camps. This is corroborated by epidanamneses Nos. 138, 139, 149, 166, 175, 180, 40, 49, 50, and by protocol of examination No. 273.

"(e) Infection of the Soviet population with typhus was carried out in the latter half of February and early half of March."

4,000 Victims Saved

From March 19 to March 31, 1944, after the liberation of the area of the small town of Ozarichi in the Polessye Region from the German invaders, the Red Army Command placed in hospitals 4,052 Soviet citizens, including 2,370 children under 13 years of age.

On the basis of the investigation of the Special Commission, the conclusion of the medico-legal experts, and documentary materials, as well as on the basis of the investigation conducted by Academician Trainin, of the Extraordinary State Committee, the Commission has established that, by creating concentration camps at the forward edge of the defenses and by confining there people in good health, together with typhus cases, the German military authorities deliberately attempted to spread an epidemic of typhus in the midst of the Soviet population and the Red Army troops, which constitutes a gross violation of laws and usage in the conduct of war by civilized nations.

The Extraordinary State Committee considers that responsibility for all these crimes lies with Hitler's government and the Supreme Command of the German army, also with the Commander of the Ninth Army, General of Tank Troops Harpe; the Commander of the 35th Army Corps, Infantry General Wiese; the Commander of the 41st Tank Corps, Lieutenant General Weidmann; the Commander of the Sixth Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Grossmann; the Commander of the 31st Infantry Division, Major General Eksner; the Commander of the 296th Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Kulmer; the Commander of the 110th Infantry Division, Major General Weissaupt; the Commander of the 35th Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Richard; the Commander of the 34th Infantry Regiment, Colonel von Kapf; the Commander of the 109th Infantry Regiment, Major Rogilein; the head of the Abwehrtrupp 308, Oberleutnant Kerst.

All of them must bear strict responsibility for the crimes committed against the Soviet people.

German Man-Hunts in Lithuania

By Jonas Simkus

After Rosenberg's visit to Riga, where he attended a conference of fascist leaders among whom were Renteln and the regional commissars of Lithuania, it was decided to deport 100,000 Lithuanians to Germany. Rosenberg stated: "Since the Lithuanians refuse to fight, we will turn them into slaves." Throughout Lithuania man-hunts began. Here are some facts that have come to my knowledge:

In March a large punitive detachment composed of German gendarmes, policemen and SS men was sent to Kozluruda from Kaunas. The Germans arrived during the night in a special train, threw a cordon around the town, set up machine guns and at day-break began the hunt. They arrested all men up to 60 years of age, even those who had certificates stating they were working. Only a few escaped; three were killed and 12 severely wounded during an attempted escape. The Germans arrested the wounded also. All the men were then thrown into cattle cars, which were sealed and sent to Germany.

After they had finished the hunt, the Germans began plundering the homes of the arrested. A carload of stolen food and clothing was shipped to Germany. The next day a detachment of German gendarmes, armed with machine guns, mortars and even flame-throwers which they now employ to fire Lithuanian villages, set out in 16 trucks from Kaisiedorys for Ziezmaris, where they rounded up 400 men.

All who resisted were beaten within an inch of their lives. A Ziezmaris priest who protested the arrests was also beaten up, thrown into a truck and dumped into a ditch along the road, where he was later found by peasants.

In the town of Zioslai the Germans rounded up all the men, including the 15-year-olds. On the way to Vievis, two youths managed to escape. They told of how the Germans shot 45-year-old Girdvoinis and his 18-year-old son when they attempted to flee.

A large man-hunt was carried out in Kaunas, in the Green Mountain, in the neighborhood of a school. The Germans set up machine guns in Vaisiu and Kriansai streets. When the men learned what was afoot, they ran to a tree-covered gully in the neighborhood of the former Mocabi Stadium, on the bank of the Neris River. The Germans surrounded the entire district, arrested the men and pillaged their homes, carrying away all the food, clothing and valuables they could find.

In the Svencianis district, 5,000 German gendarmes and SS men commanded by the Vilnius regional kommissar Hingst and police chief Horn arrested and deported 12,000 men.

The hunting down and deportation of Lithuanians continue.

TRADE UNIONISTS OF LENINGRAD

By Peter Kazakov

The author is a member of the Presidium of the All-Union Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions.

I believe a brief account of how the members of the Leningrad trade unions fought and worked during the 30 months of the siege will be of interest.

In August, 1941, the enemy was getting very close to Leningrad. Hundreds and thousands of trade unionists went out with pick and shovel to build fortifications. Soon the city was belted with anti-tank ditches, wooden obstacles and minefields. More than 15,000 forts, blockhouses and gun emplacements were erected. The Nazis were bombing the city continuously from the air and bombarding it with long-range guns. There were not a few casualties.

The enemy was making a rush for the city from the Kolpino area, where the big Izhorsk works is situated. The factory committee called on the workers to leave their lathes and hammers and take up rifles, tommy guns and machine guns. Everyone went straight from the workshops to fight the Germans. They not only saved Kolpino; they prevented the enemy from entering Leningrad.

The fascists then intensified their air raids and shelling from heavy guns. We had as many as 14 air alerts in a single day, lasting from 18 to 20 hours. The enemy achieved nothing by it. So he decided to starve us out. Leningrad was cut off from the rest of the country. Railway traffic stopped, and with it the supply of foodstuffs, fuel and raw material. The food stocks were coming to an end, and the bread ration was reduced to just under 9 ounces a day for workers and four and one-half ounces for the members of their families. There was nothing else to eat.

Famine set in, with mass sickness, and scurvy. Many died of exhaustion. The majority of those who died were men. In my own family my brother-in-law died, and my brother. The winter came, a time of severe frost. We were without fuel or water. The people broke the ice on the Neva and Moika Rivers with pick-axes, and carried water in buckets.

Civilians Carried on Like Soldiers

In those days a narrow little strip across Lake Ladoga was our only connection with the "mainland," and it was under constant enemy fire. But Leningrad's workers stayed at their machines like good soldiers at their posts. Not for a single day did our scientists and designers cease their creative work. Hungry and exhausted, working in unheated premises by the dim, flickering light of kerosene lamps

or under the smoky light from a bit of string dipped in a little bottle of paraffin, they gave their knowledge in the service of the Red Army.

The trade union bodies in Leningrad helped to organize the collection of wild grasses and conifer plants from which vitamins were made, and they took care that these vitamins were served with meals in dining halls. Hotels were opened at every enterprise, where the workers lived in comparative warmth without the strain of going home. Remember that the cars and buses were not running, and the workers were too feeble to walk. The trade unions also provided funds to open numerous children's homes and nurseries.

I happened to be in a certain factory when a shell fell on the premises, killing and wounding 46 persons. The death of their comrades was a terrible shock to everyone, and I shall never forget how the whole factory was stirred to its depths with anger and indignation. The factory committee there and then called a meeting, at which the workers vowed to work still more strenuously. At the end of 1942 we had 9,700 teams of workers taking part in socialist competition. By the end of 1943 the figure had risen to 16,000.

Leningrad's industry exceeded its 1943 production program. Output was 84 per cent above 1942, and 333 Leningrad enterprises received honorable mention for their achievements in the campaign.

Trade Union Officials at the Front

Throughout those years of siege, Leningrad's trade union officials were in the advanced front lines, working on defense construction. It is enough to say that of the staff of the Engineering Workers Union, only one man remained. The office staff of the Banking Clerks Union was reduced to three. The Builders Union staff was reduced to two. Not a single official remained in the offices of either the Woodworkers or the Art Workers Unions.

Many trade unions lost their homes. Some had to carry on their work in private flats. But even under such difficulties, the trade union organizations always took the lead in rallying the workers in their self-sacrificing labor and in their strivings at all costs to defend their city. The medal "For the Defense of Leningrad" was awarded to thousands of Leningrad trade unionists.

All of our trade union members are living for one thing only: as quickly as possible to heal the wounds inflicted on our beloved city, to make it still more magnificent, and its industry still mightier.

MATERNITY CARE IN USSR

By G. Sverdlov

From its inception the Soviet State has spared no efforts to create favorable conditions for the birth and rearing of children. The widest attention and consideration are given to maternity welfare by State and public institutions. Expectant and nursing mothers are protected by the Soviet Constitution.

The law forbids the lowering of wages of pregnant women; when transferred to lighter tasks they retain their previous salary. From the fifth month of pregnancy no woman employee may be transferred to another town or city for work. After the sixth month no overtime work is permitted. Pregnant women and nursing mothers employed in the lumber, cotton, tobacco or similar industries are protected by special regulations.

Thirty-five days before confinement women are given maternity leave with full pay. After confinement they are allowed 28 days of rest. Women in military service and wives of servicemen receive a special bonus from the State during their maternity leave. Collective farm women are released from work one month before and one month after confinement. At present extra allowances of butter, sugar, cereal and milk are given to pregnant women, and the local Soviets provide numerous privileges for future and nursing mothers.

Nursing mothers enjoy many privileges. They have time off during working hours for nursing their infants. During the first six months the mothers are not permitted to work overtime. If a child up to two years of age is ill, the mother is given leave with full pay.

The Soviet Government has greatly extended the network of maternity homes throughout the country. Before the Revolution, Russia had some 6,000 maternity beds; in 1937 the Soviet Union had 97,000. The State makes cash allowances for layettes and other necessary infant garments and for feeding expenses, half the sum being paid immediately after birth and the balance in five months.

The network of infant and welfare centers is widespread, and all medical care in these centers is free. Equally extensive is the number of nurseries, kindergartens and children's homes. Since the number of women workers in industry, transport and agriculture has greatly increased during the war, the number of children's institutions has been correspondingly extended. In 1943 accommodations in nurseries increased by 40 per cent in the towns and 33 per cent in villages.

Many improvements have been made in conditions for mothers and infants, and there has been a considerable decline in infant mortality.



(Above) Artificial sunlight in the nursery of the Trekhgornaya textile mills in Moscow; (below) In the maternity home of the Novaya Zhizn collective farm, Sukharevo Rural Soviet

MASTER BUILDERS OF THE NORTH

By I. Zvavich

A recent publication of the Soviet Academy of Architecture is devoted to Russian wooden buildings. Compiled by Semyon Zabello, Vladimir Ivanov and Pavel Maximov, this luxurious edition is proof of the high level maintained by Soviet publishing houses during the war.

Since ancient Russia was essentially a land of forests, wood was more than ordinarily important to our old-time builders. Timber was the cheapest and most common material, and easily worked. Long before stone came into use, wooden churches, enclosures and watch towers were built. Princes and their courtiers lived in wooden halls. Whole towns, in fact, were built of wood, which continued to be the predominant building material in use in the north until the end of the 17th Century.

Methods of construction and architectural forms were handed down from generation to generation. From the 9th to the 17th Centuries they were con-

stantly being improved and perfected. The influence of wooden architecture upon brick is clearly visible. Favorite forms of the wooden spire were adapted to brick.

Of particular interest are churches which have preserved certain forms used in the secular architecture of an earlier day. These churches, most of which are between two and three hundred years old, reflect the designs of vanished halls, palaces and fortresses. The wooden churches of the north, whether severe or fantastic, have in common irreproachable proportions, perfection of silhouette and nobility of detail.

The rightness of Russian wooden architecture, its organic connection with its natural surroundings, its beauty of outline, its treatment of principal masses and feeling for scale, place it among the great art of world-wide importance.

New Film on National Hero of Armenia

David Bek, just released in the USSR, deals with the distant past of Armenia, and was made in Erevan, capital of the Armenian Soviet Republic. The action takes place in the hills and castles of that picturesque country at the beginning of the 18th Century. The producer is Amo Bek Nazarov, one of the best of Soviet Armenia's film directors. The historical epoch has been reproduced with great care. There are unforgettable battle scenes. The film was shot at the very time Hitler's armies were striving to break through to the heart of the Caucasus.

David Bek is the national hero of Armenia. After more than 200 years his memory lives in her history and folk legends. At the beginning of the 18th Century, Armenia was under the yoke of the Persian khans. Attempts to overthrow the rule of the foreigner ended in failure; the khans were powerful. The patriarchs of the country decided to send ambassadors to other Christian countries for aid. They appealed to Russia, to Peter I. He sent a Russian gunsmith to the Caucasus to teach the Armenians how to cast formidable arms. At the head of the Armenian people rose a gifted general and staunch patriot who had seen much campaigning in Georgia—David Bek.

He and his comrades-in-arms are worthy forerunners of the valorous people of Soviet Armenia, some

of whom have proved gifted generals. The name of General Bagramyan is known to all the peoples of the Soviet Union. The film reproduces the magnificent 18th Century architecture of Armenia. We follow with keen interest the expressive, emotional action of the Armenian screen performers. The romantic image of David Bek is magnificently portrayed by Nersesyan, People's Artist of Armenia.

City of Youth

One of the world's youngest cities is Komsomolsk-on-Amur, built by Soviet youth in the remote taiga in the Far Eastern part of the USSR. Some 12 years ago there was nothing on the site except two small villages with a total population of 100. Within five years the city had grown to 70,000, and before the war increased still further.

The surrounding country is rich in coal, iron, gold, timber and furs, and Komsomolsk has become a large industrial center. Instead of virgin taiga, broad fields and orchards girdle the city. A large Palace of Soviets is under construction, and plans are being made for a Palace of Culture and the finest theater in the Far East.

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Russian SFSR Establishes New Commissariat

The youngest People's Commissariat of the Russian SFSR is that of Municipal and Housing Construction, recently set up by the Government of the Russian SFSR to take charge of all building activity in these fields in the Republic. At least for some years to come, however, the bulk of its funds and means will be devoted to the rehabilitation of cities and other inhabited points wrecked by the Germans.

That the Government attaches great significance to the work of this Commissariat is shown in the

choice of Vasili Ivanov, Vice Chairman of the Council of Peoples' Commissars of the Russian SFSR, to head it. Ivanov is well known to Muscovites for his work before the war in the reconstruction and improvement of the Capital. Exceptional organizational talent has earned Ivanov his advance to leading State offices, and precisely this quality is required in his latest post. Vigorous measures and speed are necessary to provide comfortable homes for the millions of homeless, to raise towns from ruins and to rehabilitate dynamited water supply systems.



New apartment buildings for workers in Erevan, capital of the Armenian SSR

Ivanov stated in a recent interview that the new Commissariat will spend several billion rubles on the rehabilitation of cities and towns during the next four years. A long-range plan is being worked out for this sweeping undertaking. After its approval by the Government bodies concerned, it will be put into effect at a progressively increasing pace.

"This by no means signifies that we are only a 'Commissariat of the future,'" Ivanov explained. "Extensive rehabilitation work is already under way in all liberated regions and cities, and expenditures for this purpose in 1944 will be roughly twice those of last year. We regard this as the year for gearing our forces and industrial efforts to the large-scale restoration work which will probably be launched next year. Today there is still a great shortage of such building materials as cement and metal, which go first to the Army and the war industry."

The People's Commissar pointed out that extensive use will be made in municipal construction of locally obtainable building materials. Plans are being set up to produce standard prefabricated houses, also of local materials. In two or three years' time the production of such sectional residential and public buildings is expected to reach several million square meters of floor space annually.

"We have no intention of making our rehabilitated cities standard houses alone," Ivanov continued, "but the acute housing situation which has resulted from the barbarous destruction wrought by the German armies compels us to resort, at least in the beginning, to this kind of structure. The Commissariat and all architectural and construction organizations are now studying both domestic and foreign experience and achievements in this field. We want to make use of the best produced by world science."

In regard to city planning and municipal architecture, Ivanov said that the new general plans for reconstruction and restoration will not be mechanical copies of past ideas on the subject. The geographic, economic and ethnographic peculiarities of rehabilitated cities and towns will be reflected in the planning and design of the new architectural ensembles. Only historical buildings will be restored to their former condition.

Outstanding architects of the Soviet Union have been commissioned to work on the plans and projects for municipal construction. K. Alabyan is engaged on the general plan for Stalingrad; B. Iofan on that for Novorossisk; A. Schusev for Novgorod; V. Semenov for Rostov, etc. Projects have already been completed for the restoration of a number of cities.

Getting Others to Take the Kicks

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Soviet airmen brought down a Messerschmitt. The pilot proved to be a Hungarian named Alexander Nod. This is what he says:

"Our job is to protect the German bombers. We 'protect' them by climbing into the clouds where it is quieter. If the Russians send two or three German bombers crashing, what does it matter to us? Why should we risk our lives for the sake of the Germans? Our brigade commander is Lieutenant Colonel Bukovi Elemer. But the Lieutenant Colonel is commanded by the German Major Rundstedt. I'm glad I have been brought down. I used to climb as high as I could, but only now do I feel I am in seventh heaven. . . ."

The story of this cloud-lover is very edifying. The Germans seized Hungary. They entered Budapest like conquerors. They eat Hungarian pork washed down with Tokay. What's more, they expect the Hungarians to die for a "greater Germany" which includes Vitebsk, Oslo, Nice and Budapest.

But the Hungarians are beginning to wriggle out of it.

Formerly the Germans said to the Magyars, "Let's go to the Don." The invitation to this robber cam-

paign sounded like the invitation to a banquet. The Hungarians plundered Kursk, Stary Oskol, Korot'yak and Voronezh to their hearts' content.

The banquet ended with the arrival of the invited hosts—the Russians. The Honveds got it in the neck. After that the Hungarians became more cautious. They refused the invitations, pleading lack of appetite. But the Germans don't stand on ceremony now; they don't invite—they drag by the scruff of the neck. They have already had not a few Hungarian divisions sent to the front. They say to the Magyars, "Be good enough to protect us."

Lieutenant Colonel Bukovi Elemer's airmen found a way out. They hid in the clouds. But the Hungarian infantry has nowhere to hide. The Honveds can either surrender or share the fate of the Fritzes.

The Germans want to get others to take the kicks. Let the Hungarians ask themselves whether it pays them to protect Germany.

As to the Red Army, it will do its job and the Catholics will be no protection for the Hungarians—just as the Hungarians are no protection for the Germans.

GERMANY'S MILITARY SITUATION

By Colonel M. Tolchenov

The following article appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 10:

Summer—the period most favorable for large-scale military operations—is approaching. It is regarded as a universally accepted fact that the continent of Western Europe is due again, as in the summer of 1940, to become the arena of intensive engagements between armies millions strong.

However, the similarity between the present circumstances in Europe and those in which military events developed four years ago is only superficial. Actually, the military situation of Hitler Germany and the forces opposed to her has undergone a radical change. Whereas at that period the German-fascist army by swift dashes seized one European country after another, and it seemed to many there was no force in the world capable of halting the avalanche of Hitler's armored divisions, today his badly battered war machine is facing a last frantic fight for its very existence.

The best idea of Germany's military situation today can perhaps be had by comparing the strategical aims which the German command pursued three or four years ago with those which it is now in a position to set its armed forces. Having vanquished a number of countries in Western and Southern Europe, Germany hurled the full weight of her war machine against the Soviet Union. The Hitlerites calculated on destroying the Red Army first, after which, without having any threat to fear from the East, they would proceed to conquer Britain and then America. In a word, Hitler at that period cherished dreams of world domination, and the strategical conceptions of the German armed forces bore a markedly offensive character.

The hostilities on the Soviet-German front made it clear to the Germans that they could not break Soviet resistance, and induced the German command to renounce its offensive doctrine which had for many decades been cultivated in the German army. This enunciation was not, of course, voluntary. The history of large-scale wars knows no instance of a belligerent party obtaining victory by defensive action alone. Hence, when over a year ago the leaders of Hitler Germany recognized they could not conduct successful offensive operations they thereby admitted the impossibility of German victory.

Of course, cases are known when the belligerent adhered at the beginning of a campaign to defensive actions and then, having weakened its adversary and mobilized its own human and material resources to the full, passed to the offensive and administered a decisive defeat to the enemy. But as

we know, Hitler's strategy was calculated for a different method of waging war. And the experience of a number of wars shows that he who at the beginning of hostilities depletes his forces in fruitless attempts to achieve a decisive victory, is then compelled to pass to the defensive and after that can no longer count upon a successful offensive, or consequently upon ultimate victory.

When they unleashed the war in Europe, the Germans blindly believed in the infallibility of their blitzkrieg; in other words, in the absolute superiority of offensive methods over defensive methods. It is therefore not surprising that when the blitzkrieg on the Soviet-German front failed, Hitler's strategy found itself at an impasse. In its search for a way out, the German command sought to stabilize the front in order to retain the territory it seized. The Germans were thus compelled to resort to the doctrine of positional warfare; a doctrine whose unsoundness they had themselves previously propagated. They made a theoretical right-about-face, and from having underestimated defensive methods proceeded now to overestimate them, and suddenly conceived a faith in the impregnability of fortified defensive "walls."

The Red Army's offensive operations foiled the enemy's plans for a stabilized front. The German-fascist troops proved unable to cope with the task set them, and under pressure of the Red Army the front line began swiftly to recede westward.

The Germans tried to make out that the retreat of their armies was a deliberate withdrawal, allegedly with the purpose of shortening the front and their lines of communication and preserving manpower. They asserted their intention was to "exchange territory for more favorable strategical positions." Naturally there may be cases in the course of war when an army which finds itself in unfavorable conditions retreats, in order to break contact with its adversary and to occupy more favorable positions. But in such cases it does not waste its energies in fortifying occupied territory, and does its utmost to avoid collisions with its antagonist, for it is precisely the desire to avoid fighting in the given conditions which induces it to withdraw. Is that the way the German-fascist army behaved? No. Over a long period of time it feverishly erected powerful and solid defense zones extending in depth to hundreds of kilometers, and frantically defended its defense works, sometimes to the last man.

More, if the German army was executing a deliberately planned withdrawal, how are we to explain its immense losses in lives and armament? How are we to explain that it abandoned its maga-

zines, thousands of trains loaded with military equipment, etc.? The explanation is that the German army was compelled to retreat under pressure of the Red Army, and that in the spring and summer of this year the retreat assumed a disorganized character. The German army, which always boasted of its organization, abandoned in its retreat military stores and armament in serviceable condition, as well as its wounded.

That the German-fascist troops retreated under compulsion is also attested by the repeated encirclement and annihilation of large enemy army groups by the Red Army. We have only to recall that the German troops which were surrounded in the areas of Korsun-Shevchenkivsky, Shchirivka, Berezhnevataya, Skala, Razdelnaya, Tarnopol, the Crimea and other places sustained casualties which in the aggregate even exceeded the German losses in Stalin-grad. In the face of these facts, certain foreign military observers who were originally inclined to regard the Germans' enforced retreat as a triumph of German strategy were later obliged to alter their opinion. Even the German press has abandoned its officially cheerful tone and admits that severe defeats were sustained by Hitler's troops on the Soviet-German front.

The Red Army's brilliant victories, coupled with the successes of our Allies, have seriously worsened the strategical position of Hitler Germany and her vassals, and radically changed the conditions for the further course of the war.

First, the Soviet troops in their swift advance to the Carpathian foothills have cut the Germans' front in two and deprived them of their main communications. The Germans' southern group can now rely only on the inadequately developed railway system passing through Rumanian territory.

Second, the Red Army's offensive created the premises for the complete ejection of the enemy from the territory of our country. The German army has been deprived of important strategical communications, railway centers and naval ports, and its offensive opportunities diminished. At the same time the Red Army acquired favorable conditions for the further prosecution of the fight.

Third, whereas hitherto the oscillations on the front line took place on Soviet territory without affecting what the Germans regard as their "vital territory," now the situation in this respect has definitely changed. The Germans' defeat in Leningrad has very adversely affected the positions of Hitler's vassal—Finland—and the German-fascist troops on her territory. In the south the Red Army entered Rumania and has reached the Soviet-Czechoslovak frontier. It has smashed the German-Rumanian army in the Crimea and captured Sevastopol. The recovery of this important Black Sea naval base will have

an immense influence on operations against Rumania's sea communications. Soviet troops have reached the borders of central Europe, at the gateway to the Balkan Peninsula.

Any further advance by the Red Army will create a real threat to Germany's positions at the approaches to her own territory. The German command has had to undertake the organization of the defenses of Hitler's satellites, and has occupied Hungary and dispatched additional troop contingents to Rumania and Bulgaria. Hitler is compelled to expend his divisions in the occupation of the territory of his vassals. This act of aggression on the part of Germany against her own "allies" speaks eloquently of the catastrophic state of the Hitler bloc.

Fourth, it is an open secret that manpower has now become the most acute problem, and an unsolvable one, for the Hitlerites. Germany's manpower resources have been depleted to the extreme. The irreparable losses sustained by the German-fascist army, and the fact that its main forces are contained on the Soviet-German front, is becoming a decisive factor in the present strategical situation. The Red Army's successful offensive is compelling the Hitlerite leaders to transfer their last reserves to the East in order to avert disaster, with the result that ever-increasing forces are being riveted to the Soviet-German front. This cannot but affect the state of Germany's armed forces in Western Europe.

Naturally, these qualitative changes in the situation in the Soviet-German theater, which is a decisive theater, is substantially altering Germany's position in the West. The Red Army's victories are creating extremely favorable conditions for active operations by our Allies, for an active attack on Hitler Germany from the East as well as from the West, as outlined by the Teheran Conference. Thanks to the Red Army's successes, conditions are immeasurably more favorable for our Allies' offensive operations in the West than ever before. With less risk than ever, British and American troops are now able to attack the forces which the already badly-mauled German army has in Western Europe.

Our great Allies, the United States and Great Britain, have done much to facilitate the successes of the Red Army. Systematic attacks by British and American air forces on enemy military targets are undermining Germany's military power. The armed forces of our Allies cleared the Axis troops from the African Continent, consolidated their positions in the Mediterranean and then seized the southern part of Italy. It is true that tactically the Anglo-American Command has been unable to achieve big successes in Italy, but it is containing a large part of the German army there. The heroic fight of the Yugoslav people and their National Liberation Army is also containing a number of enemy divisions.

The operations of our Allies were for a long period characterized by peripheral actions bearing a preparatory character. The British and American forces are now ready for decisive operations. There can be no doubt but that the combined blow by the Red Army from the East and our Allies from the West will bring about the complete defeat of Hitler Germany. Big difficulties will, of course, have to be overcome. While Germany's armed forces are now not strong enough to achieve success in offensive operations in Italy, they are still in a position to offer serious resistance in defensive operations. But if the German army is unable to stem the Red Army's offensive, how can it stand up against the combined might of the three great powers—the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain?

The point is not only that when the decisive battles begin in Europe the might of the Red Army will be augmented by the Anglo-American forces of invasion. War is not arithmetic. A highly important consideration is that by operating from the East and West the Allies will acquire all the advantages of a converging attack. The efforts directed from the periphery to the center will tend to bring groups which began action from different quarters closer and closer together. On the other hand, these efforts will have an effect not only on the sectors of the front against which they are aimed, but also on others which are in a rear relation to the former, and will also compel the enemy to dissipate his strategical reserves.

Clausewitz, analyzing a situation of this kind, wrote: "It may thus be considered established that converging operations possess the advantage that action aimed at "A" is at once reflected at "B" without losing any of its force in relation to "A," and that action aimed at "B" is at once reflected at "A," so that together they constitute not merely "A" plus "B," but something bigger, and that this gain is obtained both in tactics and in strategy. . . ."

It is precisely such possibilities which are now opening up for the armed forces of the anti-Hitler coalition. The development of offensive operations both in the East and West implies under present conditions the invasion of territory vital to the Germans, which they cannot afford to forfeit without a fight, for it would incur the risk of a drastic deterioration of their position. The Germans will be compelled to fight under unfavorable conditions against the armed forces of the Allies, many times superior to them in strength, until the inevitable moment comes when, under the blows from East and West, the German army will lose its capacity of resistance and will be crushed.

The leaders of Hitler Germany cannot but realize that in the fight with the combined forces of the freedom-loving countries, the German-fascist army is no longer in a condition to achieve victory. They are aware they cannot change the course of the war in

their favor. The victory strategy is a strategy of the past as far as Germany is concerned. The German command now is not occupied with the idea of victory, but with the problem of how to protect Germany from complete defeat, how to save fascism and its armed forces. The only strategical conception entertained by the Germans now is to muster all the forces and means at their disposal, to postpone the moment when the Allies begin their coordinated operations, to drag out the war and to prevent an early issue.

It is perfectly obvious that Germany, with the military forces and means at her disposal, can only delay but not prevent her defeat. The crisis of Hitler's strategy is beyond solution. In view of this, the Hitlerites are resorting to all sorts of tricks and dodges. The German press and radio suddenly began advertising loudly a new plan supposedly adopted by the German command: it is to mass large forces in the West at the cost of weakening Germany's position in the East, to demolish British and American troops landed on the Continent, and then to turn all their forces against the Red Army.

The purpose of this clumsy dodge is obvious. On the one hand the Hitlerites are trying, as it were, to justify their defeats on the Soviet-German front on the grounds that their forces have been diverted to the West. By stressing the danger of the Anglo-American invasion, they are trying to weaken the impression caused by the real danger threatening from the East. On the other hand, by spreading rumors to the effect that they are massing big forces in the West, they want to create a false impression that their positions in Western Europe are secure.

Such fables of course cannot alter the developments of operations on the Soviet-German front in Germany's favor, nor prevent the carrying out of our decision at the Teheran Conference to vanquish Hitler Germany. The absurdity of this "strategical plan" of Germany is only too obvious. Is it not clear that the Germans dare not weaken their forces on the Soviet-German front by transferring part of their troops to the West? The initiative on the Soviet-German front is in the hands of the Soviet Command, and it is the latter, not the Germans, which is determining the course of operations there. Even if the German command wanted to divert part of its divisions to the West, it could not do so without risking complete disaster.

Consequently, only people who are anxious for definite purposes to exaggerate Germany's strength in the West can give currency to the gross fabrications of German propaganda. This applies, in the first place, to overt and covert accomplices of the enemy who are now endeavoring to deceive the public of the Allied countries and are doing their utmost to postpone the invasion and thus afford Hitler Germany the respite she so badly needs. To these cir-

cles, of course, belongs the representative of the Hearst International News Service who recently declared that the Germans are persistently diverting their forces to the West, notwithstanding the Red Army's increasing assault. Desiring still more strongly to stress the Germans' alleged growing strength in the West, this agency spared no colors in painting the high qualities of these troops. We are told they are "the finest, most splendidly trained, picked guards divisions."

Of course these assertions of the Germans and their accomplices are so absurd they are scarcely likely to deceive anyone. The British Minister of Information stated on May 3 (Note—Retranslation from the Russian): "The information spread in Germany, by means of which the Germans are trying to justify their defeats in Russia on the grounds that considerable forces have been diverted to the West, does not accord with the facts. However, a number of divisions destroyed on the Eastern Front have been reformed in the West under the same names. It is also known that a number of divisions, including the Ninth and Tenth Panzer Divisions, have been transferred from France to Russia."

The fact that the Germans passed to the defensive—in other words, have renounced the fundamental dogma of their strategy, is the clearest proof of the hopelessness of Germany's position. What can Berlin's bankrupt strategists reckon on when the British and American invasion of Europe is inevitable, and when in a war on two fronts Germany has not the least chance of putting up a prolonged resistance. To judge by Germany's press, the Hitlerites have another variant of their "strategical plan." On the basis of the experience of the hostilities in Italy, the Germans hope that in Western Europe too they will be able to stem the Allies' offensive operations, and having lured them into the *cul-de-sac* of positional warfare, protract the war and gain time "for

a peace offensive." Realizing they have no chances for victory, the Germans are cherishing the hope of obtaining a compromise peace which would give them the opportunity, after a certain lapse of time, to start a new World War.

It is, however, surprising that certain press organs in the Allied countries, ostensibly on the authority of official circles, represent the expected invasion of Europe as likely to be a long process of marking time, and not as a vigorous operation carried out at high speed with the help of large forces designed to achieve success as early as possible.

Need it be shown that such assertions, ostensibly based on official authority, are to say the least, false. The decision at the Teheran Conference speaks quite clearly of a relentless and increasing attack from the East and West. Hence, what is had in mind is not to form a new bridgehead on the European coast similar to Anzio and Nettuno, nor new stationary sections of fronts similar to Cassino, calculated for protracted war, where for months hostilities were confined to affairs of patrols and bomber attacks.

Incidentally, it is precisely the experience at Cassino which shows quite clearly that the success of operations depends not so much on the weight of bombs dropped as upon the activity of land forces. There is no reason to doubt that the Allied Command has drawn the lessons from the earlier operations of the British and American forces, and will be able by relentless and increasing attack on Hitler's "European fortress" to carry out the decisions of the Teheran Conference and thus foil the enemy's last hopes, which are based on protracting the war.

The German-fascists' fantastic plans designed to frighten people with weak nerves are doomed to failure. That the defeat of Hitler Germany is inevitable is becoming clearer and clearer.

A YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

By Vassily Bereza

In the autumn of 1942 I set off for one of the eastern regions of the USSR. New nickel deposits were discovered 11 miles from the nearest railhead, and construction of the mine had to be undertaken.

How were we to transfer excavators, locomotives and other heavy equipment to the site? We might have used trucks and tractors. But that would have meant dismantling the equipment and then reassembling it. It would have been easier to postpone all work till summer. But we had pledged ourselves to have the mine open by November, 1944, and all the engineers, workers and technicians were eager to do still better than that.

So we got going at once. A branch line half a

mile long was laid, starting from the main line and running in the direction of the ore fields. The equipment was loaded on trucks, which were run onto the tracks. When the freight train reached the end of the line the tracks were taken apart and carried further ahead. In that way we brought the train to the construction site.

Snow served as ballast for our railway, as well as a source of water. We also built a snow dam to carry the train across a frozen river. The train had hardly reached the opposite bank when the dam broke. However, we got our equipment to the construction site without mishap. The work went ahead at such a rate that the new mine started to function in early November, 1943, a year ahead of schedule.

REPRESENTATIVES OF POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL - *Krajowa Rada Narodowa* - ARRIVE IN MOSCOW

The Presidium of the Union of Polish Patriots announces:

Several days ago representatives of the National Council of Poland—*Krajowa Rada Narodowa*—who crossed the front line coming from German-occupied Poland, arrived in Moscow. The National Council of Poland was set up in Warsaw on January 1, 1944, by the democratic parties and groups fighting against the German invaders. The National Council of Poland is made up of representatives of the following political parties and groups: opposition section of the Peasant Party—*Stronnictwo Ludowe*; the Workers Polish Socialist Party, the Polish Workers Party, the Committee of National Initiative, a group of non-party democrats, the underground trade union movement, the Union of the Struggle of Youth—*Walki Młodych*; a writers' group, a group of cooperative workers, a group of intellectual workers, a group of artisans, and also underground military organizations: People's Guard, Popular Militia, peasant battalions, and a number of representatives of local military formations of the *Krajowa Armja* (Sosnkowski's army), and several others.

In view of the existing conditions in Poland under the bloody yoke of the German invaders, it became necessary to set up a center to organize the struggle against the Germans and to coordinate all the efforts of the Polish people for the liberation of the country from the occupationists. All the hopes which the Polish people placed in the government-in-exile in London proved futile. The government-in-exile, far from carrying on the struggle against the occupationists, called upon the people to refrain from action and came out against the Polish patriots who fought the Hitlerites, not even stopping at brutally exterminating guerrilla detachments and assassinating individual leaders and active fighters for Poland's national liberation. In the last analysis, the activity of the government-in-exile and its "delegates" in Poland played into the hands of the invaders and weakened Poland's political position by undermining her alliance with the United Nations.

The events of the end of 1943 aroused among the Polish people great hopes of speedy liberation, particularly in connection with the Red Army's victorious advance westward. At the same time the Hitlerites intensified their furious terror which is threatening the Polish people with utter extinction.

Consequently, the formation of the National Council of Poland as the directing center of the struggle for Poland's liberation from the German invaders has answered the burning needs of the fighting Polish people. At its very first meeting, the National Council

adopted an important decision to unite all the guerrilla groups, armed detachments and military formations that are fighting the invaders into a single People's Army—*Ludowa Armja*. This Army has been joined by the People's Guard, the Popular Militia, and a considerable part of the peasant battalions and other military organizations. The Polish people greeted the formation of the National Council and the People's Army with rejoicing enthusiasm as an important step in the struggle for a free and democratic Poland. In the several months of its activity, the National Council has managed to set up in the country a whole network of local organizations (rural, urban and regional), and has also considerably intensified the people's armed struggle against the invaders.

The representatives of the National Council of Poland have come to Moscow, firstly, to familiarize themselves with the activity of the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR and the condition of the First Polish Army; and secondly, to establish contact with the Allied Governments, including also the Government of the USSR.

For obvious reasons, neither the names of the members of the National Council of Poland nor the names of the arrived representatives can be divulged at present.

* * *

An IZVESTIA observer writes:

As stated in the communique of the Presidium of the Union of Polish Patriots on January 1, 1944, the democratic groups and parties struggling against the occupationists organized a National Council of Poland in Warsaw, which became the center of the struggle against the Germans and which unites the efforts of the Polish people.

The formation of a National Council of Poland and the adoption of a most important decision to merge all the armed forces fighting the occupationists into a single national army is extremely important for the cause of the liberation of Poland.

Delegates of the National Council arrived in Moscow to become acquainted with the activities of the Union of Polish Patriots in the USSR, with the state of the First Polish Army, and to establish contact with Allied Governments, including the Government of the USSR. They will gather an idea of the powerful efforts of the Soviet Army, which has inflicted blows upon the enemy from which the German war machine will never recover.

In close companionship with the fraternal Red Army, with the Polish Army in the USSR, as well as with the Western Allies, the Polish People's Army will fight the accursed enemy of Poland and of all Slavdom—Hitlerite Germany.

The process of consolidation of the Polish people takes place without the Polish emigres in London and against their desire. Chasing the phantom of "imperial Poland" these people, who have learned nothing from the lessons of history, who represent no one, leap out of their skins in order to make the Polish people adopt the psychology and practice of non-resistance to Hitlerism.

Not so long ago, striving to present himself as the leader of the liberation movement in Poland, Sosnkowski boasted that an "underground Polish army consisting of hundreds of thousands is pre-

pared to begin action." Of course this new *Zagloba* from London has nothing in common with the heroic struggle of the Polish people against the Hitlerite occupationists. Not for nothing did *The New York Times* write that certain influential American circles seriously doubt the veracity of the Polish government's assertion concerning the number of its adherents in the Polish underground.

It is much more important to Sosnkowski and his clique to retain their "positions" in London than to fight for the freedom, honor and independence of Poland, enslaved by the Hitlerites. Sosnkowski, who has proclaimed a "campaign against the Germans," in reality brutally persecutes the true Polish patriots who are fighting arms in hand to expel the occupationists from Polish land. Sosnkowski's agents shoot not at the Germans, but at the Poles who are fighting the Germans.

Front-Line Brigades

By Z. Ivanova

The first of our "front-line brigades" came into being at aircraft and other war plants. Not long afterwards they appeared in other branches of Soviet industry. Today we have tens of thousands of them.

What are they? The members are Stakhanovites, vying with the Red Army in their efforts to defeat the enemy. Their constant aim is to exceed production plans and to steadily increase labor productivity. They never rest content with old achievements. The title "front line" is conferred by the factory trade unions on brigades which show themselves equal to the responsibilities of such a status.

In January, 1944, conferences of front-line brigades from all over the USSR were held in Moscow, Kuibyshev, Yaroslavl and other cities. The delegates reported on the search for improved methods of production. One told how at his aircraft factory Goloshchapov's brigade had been accustomed to tool one item at a time on their milling machines—until Goloshchapov devised a method of tooling five items at once. Then he began to work three rows with five components in each. As a result, his brigade was able to turn out 700 parts per shift, instead of 100 as previously, and to dispense with eight machine-tools. At the Frezer plant in Moscow, Glushkova's brigade, by a clever innovation in the working of their lathes, increased the productivity of the machines sevenfold.

The front-line brigades show how production can be stepped up with fewer workers. The members run several machines simultaneously, or handle two trades at a time. At one aircraft plant the 10 members of Krasnikov's copper workers' brigade now do the work of 30.

Here is still another instance from an aircraft factory. A brigade at this plant originally numbered 27. First it managed to diminish its personnel by 10, then by five. Now it numbers only nine, and these nine turn out more than the former 27.

In the oil industry of the "Second Baku," Kazakhstan, and the central districts of the USSR more than 1,300 workers have been freed for other tasks, thanks to the increased labor productivity of front-line brigades in such vital processes as drilling, tapping and refining. Most of the brigades are young—between 18 and 25. But there is a good sprinkling of old-timers.

Soviet trade unions and factory managements are doing everything to foster the front-line brigade movement. Special Stakhanovite schools have been organized, where the brigades can acquaint themselves with the experience of the best brigades and eminent Stakhanovites. The achievements of leading workers are popularized by press and radio. Exhibits in factories feature the successes of the finest brigades.

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Red Army Men in Moldavia

By Elena Kononenko

Shortly after the little Bessarabian town of Beltsi was liberated, a group of church dignitaries came to the city Soviet asking whether they could hold an early Mass on Easter morning. News of an affirmative reply spread like wildfire through the small white houses of the liberated city.

"I think the Germans and Rumanians tried to scare us," women told Red Army men billeted in the town. "They said the Russian soldiers would turn our churches into stables, forbid religious worship and shoot the priests. Some of the priests even fled

to Rumania, while those who remained hid in cellars. What brazen liars those Germans and Rumanians are, aren't they?"

"You can bet on that," one young Soviet soldier replied, and added, "As to our laws, they are such that if you want to pray, you can. So go and do it; it's your own business."

Toward evening the peal of churchbells filled the streets of the little town, and townsfolk dressed in their holiday best wended their way to church. From



A Byelorussian guerrilla column on the march

—Drawing by Leonid Bolko

above the spires came the droning of Soviet planes crossing the Prut.

A little after four in the morning, as a bluish streak of dawn spread over the sky, Anastasya Leontievna, mistress of the house where we were billeted, called us for our Easter breakfast. We sat down to a table spread with a holiday feast, in a spick and span room. There were five of us: Anastasya Leontievna, our hostess; her husband, Ivan Andreyevich Kutsula, a gray-bearded carpenter; Darina, their young blue-eyed daughter; the Red Army captain who was to find his way to the forward positions that morning, and myself. We sat long at the table, talking about the war and the Soviet Union, about Germany and Rumania.

Some of the things the captain mentioned in passing left a deep impression on the elderly carpenter. The captain said that in the Soviet Union the human being was regarded as the most precious capital, and that it was Stalin who taught this attitude to the people.

"But doesn't it make any difference who the man is, whether he is a professor, lawyer or just an ordinary carpenter like myself?" our host asked.

"It makes no difference," the captain replied. "Every man is precious to society."

"Is this what Marshal Stalin says?" was the carpenter's next question. When the captain answered yes, our host pushed aside his plate and began telling us what torture it was to live in a world where at every step your self-respect was injured. For many years he had been living in just such a world; his better feelings insulted and spit at, mostly by the Rumanians and Germans. Like a sweet dream, the period of Soviet rule had passed, so that at times the people could hardly believe they had actually enjoyed it for a brief moment.

"And now the Soviets have come to stay and they will be here for many years, or perhaps forever?" the carpenter wanted to know. He was old and gray and he longed for real human treatment in his old age.

"I cannot say I suffered particularly from hunger or want," the Moldavian carpenter went on. "I am a master of my trade and I always managed to make money. As you see, I have a house of my own, some poultry and a pig. True, it took me many years to build the house. My wife and I used to work until our hands bled. Still, we have a roof of our own. But does real happiness consist only in having a roof over our heads and a stomach more or less full?"

"To tell the truth, we were far from happy. We had to bow down and tremble before everybody. We did not feel we were masters on our own land. We were not treated like human beings, nor were we permitted to speak our own language. You see, we talk with a Rumanian accent, twisting many words, be-

cause it was strictly forbidden to talk either Russian or Ukrainian. Only Rumanian, and later Rumanian and German, were permitted. It is a good thing for one to know many languages, but what I do want them to give me is the right to speak my own native tongue, and that is all I ask for."

"There wasn't even justice in the church then," Anastasya Leontievna put in. "Only this morning did I feel like an equal. Before, they would not let us in the Cathedral. If they knew you were rich or of noble birth, or if you wore new fashionable frocks, then you would be let in, but there was no place for simple folk like ourselves. 'Go into another church or stay out on the street,' was what the gendarmes told us."

Frank heart-to-heart talks like these, between the inhabitants of Bessarabia and the fighting men of the Red Army, were going on in all the cottages.

At dawn an endless stream of Red Army columns moved ahead. As the heavy tanks rattled down the road I saw a short, stocky broad-shouldered soldier who looked as though hewn out of a mighty oak standing on a tank.

Catching the crimson Easter egg flung to him by a young olive-skinned Bessarabian maiden, he hid it in his pocket with a broad grin. . . . "According to the rules you are due for an Easter kiss," he shouted, and his words came loud from the distance, as the tanks rolled westward.

Meeting of Academy of Sciences of Armenian SSR

A general meeting of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian Republic was recently held in Erevan with the participation of Vladimir Komarov, President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Academician Orbeli, who made a report on archeological research in Armenia, noted that the study of documents and monuments has rendered great assistance to historical science and made it possible to elucidate a number of most important problems in the history of the Armenian and other peoples of the Caucasus. In particular, archeological research has confirmed objectively the friendship and close cultural ties which existed for many centuries between the Armenian and Russian peoples. Referring to future plans of the archeologists, Orbeli dwelt especially upon the continuation of excavations at Karmir-belen—an ancient state monument of Uartu.

A report on the work of the Department of Physics and Mathematics was made by Academician Egiyaturov. The President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR wished the young Armenian Academy a flourishing future and new successes in its scientific work.

PRAETORIAN GUARD OF POLISH REACTION

By J. Kowal

The following article appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 10:

Officer and landowner were symbols of Poland's gentry, which based itself on violence and oppression. The Polish officers looked upon themselves as the "cream of the nation" and jealously guarded their privileges. The Polish militarists displayed their entire martial splendor in crushing peasant uprisings, shooting unarmed demonstrators, overthrowing democratic governments, engineering pogroms, beating up "insufficiently respectful" civilians and demonstrating their "*szlachta* honor." That army, together with the gentry of Poland whose interests it represented, collapsed like a house of cards when the time came to oppose the mortal enemy of the Polish people, the German invaders.

It was no accident. The reactionary pro-fascist policy of the Becks, Rydz-Smigly, Raczkiwicz and Sosnkowskis, could not but lead to Poland's disintegration. They turned the Polish army into the defender of the narrow selfish interests of their cliques, into an instrument of their internal politics directed against the interests of the Polish people. It was with the help of the army that they imposed their will on the Polish people.

And it is in the image of that old Polish army that Sosnkowski is building up his present army. Here is what Major Grabiec writes of the Polish army in prewar Poland and in exile, in the *Laborite Weekly Tribune* (Note—All quotations in this article retranslated from the Russian):

"Prewar Poland was the only country in Europe where an officer had the right to shoot a civilian without warning if he thought that said civilian insulted the honor of the uniform. Nor has the attitude of the Polish officers altered in exile. They are preparing for civil war in Poland. In the course of four and one-half years, our army in Britain has consisted of a few men and numerous officers. Jobless generals, colonels, majors and captains have been receiving officers' salaries without doing any corresponding service. It is hard to justify the maintenance of such a number of officers as a war expedient. They could have done more useful work in war factories.

"Incredible as it may seem, this mass of officers as recently been increased by another thousand men given officers' commissions at Sosnkowski's order. The sole likely explanation of the existence of such a vast number of unemployed in uniform is not military but political. The officers' corps itself is too well aware of its functions. It is an army for civil

war in Poland. Some Polish units have taken part in the operations now in progress, but the majority of the army is being held for the 'establishment of order in the future.' The army has lost its value for the struggle against the enemy without, but it is valued all the greater for the struggle against opposition at home. Sosnkowski has of course a good reason for promoting a thousand men to officers' ranks. He is thereby creating a new Praetorian Guard for himself."

The odd composition of the Polish army in Britain strikes the eye not only of outside observers, but of honest Polish patriots who have hoped they would have the opportunity of defending their country's honor and freedom in the ranks of that army. One Polish soldier reports in a letter to the editors of the *New Statesman and Nation* that one technical unit of the Polish army consists of two captains, three lieutenants, over 30 sub-lieutenants, 11 sergeants, some 20 corporals and 11 privates. This structure of the army is far from accidental.

Sosnkowski and company are not in the least concerned with the destiny and sufferings of the Polish people or with the active struggle for the speediest liberation of Poland from the yoke of the German invaders. These reactionaries hope that others will liberate Poland for them, that others will shed their blood in the struggle against the German invaders, whereas Messrs. Raczkiwicz, Sosnkowski and their henchmen will come to "establish order," take over command and build up a restored Poland that will follow the pattern of the republic of Pilsudski, Rydz-Smigly and Beck. It is to this end that they are "taking pains to train their own Francos and company."

It is in this atmosphere, utterly suffused with fascism, that sentences "for high treason" are passed upon men and officers for desiring to join the Polish Army in the USSR. It is in this atmosphere that anti-Semitism and savage persecutions of Ukrainians and Byelorussians thrive.

"Only against this political background," continues Major Grabiec, "can one perceive in proper perspective the recent scandals in connection with Jewish and Ukrainian soldiers in the Polish army. . . . Wrangel, Denikin and Kolchak specialized in Jewish pogroms. Sosnkowski does not yield the palm to any of them. It was he who in 1920 kept behind barbed-wire entanglements at Jablonies and tormented thousands of Polish soldiers of Jewish faith. With clenched teeth the professional anti-Semites pretend they are not insulting their Jewish comrades-in-arms. They figure that the day will come when they will be able to deal with Jews as they see fit.

"The Ukrainians and Jews are hated in the Polish army. The majority of officers come from the gentry, among whom contempt for the Byelorussian and Ukrainian peasants has the force of a class instinct. The Polish nobleman regards it as his inalienable 'right' to oppress the Ukrainian peasant."

While in the Polish army they persecute and bait Jews, Byelorussians and Ukrainians, fling progressive Poles into prison and look forward to the day when they can shoot them; they welcome out-and-out Hitlerites with open arms. An English newspaper correspondent, describing a military school where he found Poles who had recently fought in the ranks of Rommel's troops, reports that some of them boast of their officer ranks in Hitler's army and of their splendid relations with German officers.

There is nothing surprising in this if we bear in mind the behavior of the Polish government-in-exile.

Nor is there anything surprising in the fact that the Polish officer caste of Sosnkowski and Anders, according to Major Grabiec, "continues firmly to believe in the 'inevitability' of a split between the Western Allies and Russia which would permit them to become the vanguard of a new anti-Russian intervention. On the lips of Sosnkowski's officers is a prayer for a third World War."

Small wonder that in the eyes of these gentlemen even Mikolajczyk's reactionary government is too "leftist." They want a "strong arm" government. They feel cramped even by the fig leaf of pseudo-democracy which they are compelled to use in order to cover up their true aims, their real ambitions and intentions. They recognize only a Poland that would be a paradise for landowners, magnates and militarists, and hell for workers, peasants and intelligentsia. It is for this sort of Poland that the Sosnkowskis and Anderses are forming and preserving their army.

Notes of a Guerrilla Surgeon

By N. T.

Chief Surgeon of a Byelorussian Guerrilla Detachment

After a six weeks' raid in Western Byelorussia we camped in a forest where a dozen other columns were in hiding, all within a few hours' ride. The enemy garrison was sitting tight, venturing into the woods only in large, complete units. The guerrillas were preparing a landing ground for aircraft bringing fresh supplies from the "mainland."

Dr. M. and I put up the hospital tent, placed our surgical instruments in order and laid out the few medical stores that remained. It is true we had medicines captured from the Germans, and some Russian doctors working in the occupied areas sent us medicines through our envoys. But we didn't have anything like as much as we needed, and were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the aircraft.

We had been lucky in the last raid. The frequent engagements and skirmishes with the enemy had cost us only two wounded, and they were convalescing. But the other columns camped nearby in the forest hadn't escaped so lightly. They had many wounded, and no doctors or surgeons at all.

The local people, too, were sorely in need of medical help. Almost all the villages had been burned down by the Germans, so that nothing but ash heaps remained. The people who had survived fires, bullets and imprisonment were living in straw shelters in the woods. Peasants often came to our outposts and asked for aid.

Many children had been wounded. Still more had been burned alive or shot. There was one young

woman whose hand was hanging from her arm by the skin; the Germans had hacked it off because she tried to get to a burning house into which they had thrown her two little children. "I did not even find their bones," she told me, without raising her eyes.

* * *

Some men from Commander K's detachment came for us. They had a machine-gun escort in case of emergencies. We traveled about nine miles through the forest to where the guerrilla column was camped on the slopes of a sandy hill. To the left lay a swamp. The approaches from the right were mined and the narrow lanes through the minefields were guarded by strong outposts. The crest of the hill was well-fortified with mortar emplacements and semicircular machine-gun nests. The camp was so well camouflaged we didn't guess its existence until we were close upon it.

We went straight to the hospital. A large, well-camouflaged tent had been made from a parachute and floored with clean pine logs. There were a number of iron bedsteads with pillows. Nina Nikolaevna, the nurse in charge, had organized her work excellently. I examined the wounded, made my diagnosis and began treatment, put on plaster casts, extracted splinters, and selected some of the wounded for evacuation.

Evening fell before we realized it, and we had to spend the night in camp. At dawn long bursts from

sub-machine guns and a number of rifle shots sounded from about two miles away. Scouts reported that they had discovered a Hungarian ambush laid to catch a diversion group from the Khrushchev guerrilla column. Our people outflanked the ambush and attacked it. The Magyars fled, abandoning their horses and weapons.

I performed my last operation. M., who is a dentist, proved a very able assistant. At midday we left with a small group of tommy gunners on horseback. About two miles from the camp we heard mortar fire, followed by the rattle of a machine gun. We kept our weapons at the ready.

* * *

We arrived at the camp of the Khrushchev detachment which had just pitched camp after a long march. Their hospital consisted of a few carts with soft bedding and blankets.

Dr. Yefimov, of that column, a psychiatrist by profession, was anxiously awaiting our arrival. An explosive bullet had shattered the foot and lower part of guerrilla Kolya's leg and gangrene had set in. We prepared to amputate. Our instruments consisted of an ordinary fretsaw, a scalpel and a few pairs of Pean's forceps. We boiled the instruments in a bucket for a long time. The anesthetic we used was the German "Ewipan." The sutures were silk threads taken from a parachute. We had no iodine, only the thin German "Sepstinctur."

The psychiatrist proved a zealous assistant. I operated in the shade of a birch tree. Nearby horses stood saddled—a company was going out on sabotage work. From time to time the guerrillas glanced toward the "operating theater." For a moment I saw before me that which was dear but distant—Professor Yudin's operating theater in Moscow, a snow-white room with nickel-plated equipment, electrotrophines, electric knives, and Yudin himself, the virtuoso of surgeons.

When the operation was over we were called to dinner. The food was laid out on a blanket on the ground: fine Ukrainian borshch, pies, biscuits baked in the camp fire, a jug of milk and some honey.

Soon afterwards a messenger came for us. They were worried "at home," he said, because of our long absence. Obediently we packed our instruments.

* * *

Next morning a messenger came for me from U's column: a wounded man had been brought in, and immediate surgical help was necessary. They knew our horses were not bad, but out of politeness (and to show off!) they sent some excellent mounts.

We hurried to our neighbors. The man had some bad gunshot wounds in the thorax and abdomen. The

hospital was a semicircular wicker screen supported by birch trees. There were no sterilized cloths, only towels.

The great loss of blood and the shock made a transfusion necessary. We had had a supply of dry plasma with us for a long time, prepared by Dr. Rosenberg in the Central Institute of Blood Transfusion. We hurriedly prepared a solution. The plasma had been desiccated five months before, had traveled by air, in carts and on horseback, but the color, transparency and odor were normal.



Field Nurse Maria Zinina, of the Guards

The doctor attached to this column, a gynecologist named Z., had been behind the enemy lines for nearly 18 months. He looked curiously at the ampules and the tubing. Things had been so well planned in Moscow that, without any apparatus or special instruments, we were able to make the transfusion without difficulty. The patient's pulse became regular and normal and the danger was over.

We started out for home quite happy.

SOVIET WOMEN ATHLETES

By Z. Paperny

The Soviet public follows the careers of women athletes with as much interest as those of male champions in different fields of sports.

In peacetime Soviet girls excelled in track and field sports, in swimming, skiing and speed-skating. But the outbreak of war found Maria Poliivanova and Natasha Kovshova training for the All-Union Small-Bore Rifle Championship Tournament. In October, 1941 they left for the front, where they trained 26 snipers who soon had a total of 500 notches on their rifles.

Both of these brave girls died in the battle for Moscow. Wounded, they had exhausted their final round of ammunition and were surrounded by the Germans. Rather than surrender, they killed themselves with their last hand grenade.

Dozens of women experts in curative exercises are working in hospitals in the rear, helping to restore wounded Red Army men to the fighting ranks. Kakhanovskaya, a prominent skier, has accomplished wonders in aiding Red Army patients with limited mobility of joints. Within six weeks 25 of 31 wounded

men under her care were returned to active duty and six were pronounced fit for auxiliary army work in the rear services.

The war has not retarded the progress of women in Soviet athletics. New All-Union and even world records have been established. Last autumn Evdokia Vasilieva, who is very popular among sports fans, shattered the world record held by Koubkova, of Czechoslovakia, by running 800 meters in two minutes and 12 seconds—four-tenths of a second better than Koubkova's time.

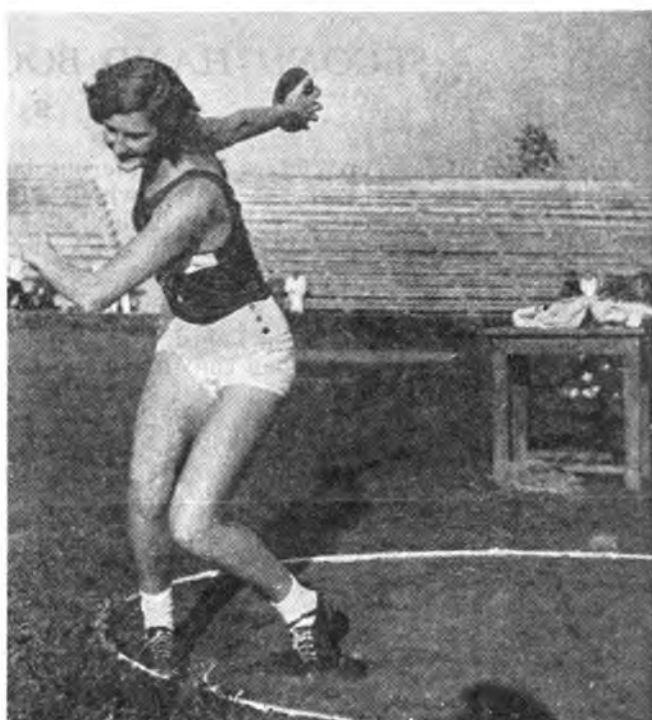
Maria Shamanova occupies a notable place in the list of Soviet women champions. A leading sprinter, she holds the Soviet records for the 60 and 100-meter dashes, and for high and long jumps. She is one of the world's most talented women athletes, and in past years triumphed at many track and field meets in France and Czechoslovakia. Though over 30—which means old age in the sprinting world—Shamanova last September marked her 20th year in sports with a brilliant victory, overcoming her younger challengers and winning the USSR and Trade Union championship titles.



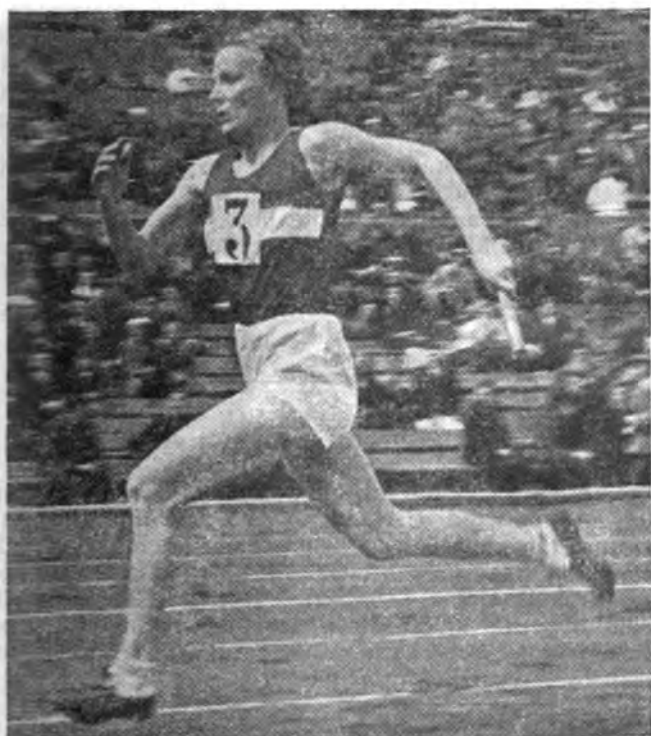
The Burevestnik Women's Hockey Team playing a match with the Dynamo Women's Team at the Dynamo Stadium, Moscow



Water Festival at the Vodnik Club, Moscow



Nina Dumbadze holds USSR record for discus throw



N. Petukhova, record-breaking sprinter



Levina, gymnast of Medical Workers Sports Club

SECOND-HAND BOOKSELLERS OF LENINGRAD

By M. Dolgoplov

The Union of Soviet Writers has numerous bookshops in various parts of the USSR which supply authors with rare and valuable volumes and distribute outstanding classic and modern works to the people.

One of these bookshops is in Leningrad. Throughout the German blockade, when the city was crippled by famine and cold and subjected to bombardment from the air and shelling by long-range artillery, this bookshop carried on its work without even a day's interruption. Despite hunger and illness, members of the staff collected books for the men and officers defending the city, hauling them on sleds through snowdrifts and delivering them to the canteen library which they had opened at the front-line positions. During January, February and March of 1942—the most terrible months of the siege—servicemen of the Leningrad Front bought literature to the value of 700,000 rubles.

The booksellers scoured the city, buying rare editions, diaries, memoirs and correspondence of famous Russian authors with foreign writers, composers and scientists. Their purchases included a letter from Heine to Liszt, letters of Hugo, Beaumarchais, Dumas fils, Zola, Darwin, Bertolotti, Bizet and Offenbach, and books autographed by Romain Rolland, Rabindranath Tagore, Upton Sinclair and Theodore Dreiser. All this material bore witness to the friendship and constant correspondence between these outstanding representatives of world literature and Russian authors and musicians.

The archives of Konstantin Stanyukovich, author of exciting naval narratives and numerous novels, are of extreme interest. In these archives are 1,011 letters of this famous writer to his wife, in which he described his travels and impressions and outlined his plans for the future. The letters were preserved by his 70-year-old granddaughter. Wishing to place them in trustworthy hands, she offered them to the Leningrad Bookshop, which purchased the unique collection and shortly afterwards turned it over to the Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library.

The Bookshop also purchased a large collection of letters written by I. Turgenev, N. Karamzin, V. Zhukovsky, N. Leskov, L. Andreyev, K. Balmont, V. Bryusov, and volumes autographed by N. Nekrasov, I. Turgenev, N. Zhukovsky, I. Goncharov, N. Leskov, D. Mamin-Sibiryak, V. Korolenko and M. Gorky, all

of which have been given for safe-keeping to the Saltykov-Shchedrin Public Library.

Enemy shells struck the Leningrad Bookshop four times, but on each occasion it was repaired by the personnel within a few days. One bookseller was killed by a splinter from a shell which burst near the display window. Four employees died of hunger. The manager, Gennadi Rakhlin, and several shop employees were wounded. In one particularly savage shelling on December 5, 1943 a shell burst at the entrance and killed nine persons.

During the German blockade the Bookshop sold nearly one and one-half million volumes for approximately six million rubles. Besides purchasing rare editions and selling books to the civilian population and armed defenders of Leningrad, the employees organized an affiliated branch in a large military hospital. Tired and hungry after the day's work, the booksellers visited the wounded, brought books, read aloud and did errands for the men.

Recently two book lotteries were arranged at the suggestion of manager Rakhlin and senior employee Fedor Shilov, who has devoted 52 years of his life to bookselling. The proceeds were to be used for the selection and preparation of 5,000 books to be sent as a gift to the library in Gatchina, destroyed by the German invaders on the eve of their retreat. Extremely valuable editions were included in the lottery and the price of tickets was low. Within a few hours after the announcement, 5,000 tickets had been sold.

After the blockade was lifted, the demand for books greatly increased and the shop opened a branch in the city. A number of the bookshop workers have been commended by the Government for their services, and manager Rakhlin and several of the staff were decorated with the medal "For the Defense of Leningrad."

Animal 'Evacuees' Return to Ukraine

The collective farms of Uzbekistan are returning to the liberated districts of the Ukraine the farm animal "evacuees" they have been caring for. The first trainload of horses has reached the Dnepropetrovsk Region. Two trains from the Tashkent Region brought 2,000 sheep and 300 bulls. In April 25 trainloads of cattle were returned from Uzbekistan to their Ukrainian pastures.

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STATEMENT OF SOVIET DOCTORS ON MASSACRE OF SOVIET CIVILIANS AND PRISONERS OF WAR BY GERMAN INVADERS

Since the Battle of Stalingrad the Red Army has fought its way forward to the foothills of the Carpathians. Throughout liberated Soviet territory, Soviet doctors have discovered innumerable cases of civilians massacred by the German invaders. The regained territory contains the graves of hundreds of thousands of innocent victims.

In violation of all international agreements the Germans are destroying civil and military hospitals, murdering and poisoning the sick and prisoners of war, burning down hospital buildings together with the patients in them and deliberately spreading typhus. German doctors are participating in the planned extermination of the population of occupied territories organized by the German High Command.

We have ample evidence of the atrocities perpetrated by German doctors on their own initiative. Doctors, together with German officers and men, take part in the murder and plunder. Here are a few facts:

In the town of Artemovsk in the Donets Basin, Doctor Tuemer, head of the Department of Public Health, forbade the townspeople to send food to prisoners of war who were dying of starvation in his hospital. Tuemer and his underlings murdered the Soviet doctor Klavdia Ved, Surgeon Sarah Shapiro and a number of other medical workers. Tuemer and his underlings plundered local medical institutions. By their order, before the Germans retreated the following medical establishments were blown up: the Workers Polyclinic, First and Second City Hospitals, Venereal Treatment Center, the Pasteur Station, the local Outpatients' Department, eight medical treatment centers, the Sanitary Service Station, a medical school, children's hospitals, the Tuberculosis Sanatorium for Children and 11 nurseries and infants' homes.

In the regional center of Stalino in the Ukraine, the Germans plundered and destroyed all medical schools and research institutions. Doctor Roll, army surgeon, and Dr. Kuchendorf, head doctor, took part in the destruction of the Stalino institutions.

We found similar destruction of almost all the medical institutions in Poltava, Kremenchug, Zaporozhye, Dniepropetrovsk and other cities.

The German doctors are acting contrary to the laws of morality and the traditions of the science of medicine, the most humane of all sciences. Their crimes and excesses make them worse than wild beasts.

Taras Zhvaniya, a doctor of the Kremenchug City Hospital, who was a prisoner of the Germans, gives evidence of the fact that the Germans deliberately killed prisoners in the Kremenchug camp for prisoners of war. The food they were given was insufficient to keep them alive even at the starvation level. The prisoners were completely exhausted. Typhus, dysentery and other infectious diseases were rife in the camp. The mortality rate from exhaustion and infectious diseases was 300 per day. In addition to this, dozens of people died every day from torture and cruelty.

Dr. Zhvaniya saw the execution of 30 prisoners, 21 of whom were doctors. On the orders of Orland, head doctor of the war prisoners' camp, the following doctors were shot: Doctor Kreinis from Taganrog; Forstein, a children's doctor from Baku; Oxenberger, a surgeon from Nikolayev; Misselmacher, a children's doctor from Kiev; Maldovsky, a therapist from Odessa; Tuchinsky, a therapist from Kiev; Dmitriyev, a therapist from Voronezh; Yakubovsky, a therapist; Goldberg, a surgeon; Kotman, a therapist from Odessa; Tsitsishvili, an assistant surgeon from Tbilisi, and others whose names Zhvaniya does not remember.

Before the execution all the prisoners were stripped to their underclothes and forced to dig a pit. As soon as the pit was finished, Orland ordered filth from the latrines to be poured into it. He then had prisoners driven into the pit where they were shot on Orland's orders. The same Orland beat Dr. Bulochnik, broke his arms, gouged out his eyes with a pen and broke his pelvis. On orders from Orland, Bulochnik and 14 other doctors were then shot before the eyes of the prisoners of war. In addition to Orland, the German doctor Schulke was present at the shooting.

I. V. Tsimbalist, a former prisoner of war who was in camp B in Kremenchug, saw how 80 war prisoners were shot. Among them were two doctors, Doctors Portnov and Hekker. The German

doctors Schulke, Brueck and Orland were present at the shooting.

We have documentary evidence to the effect that there are many Soviet doctors, especially Jewish doctors, among the victims of the mass shootings. All Jewish doctors in the occupied regions were shot by the Germans.

The German doctors practice the forced draining of blood from children and adolescents. Here is one of the many facts supported by documentary evidence: in the village of Gastozhevskaya in the Krasnodar district, the German police detained 40 children, none above 13 years of age. The children were taken to a German army hospital at Staro-Titarovskaya, where all the blood was pumped out of them. All of the 40 children died.

The German doctors use Soviet citizens as guinea pigs for their experiments with poisonous substances and for experimental operations. In the city of Orel a Medical Commission headed by Academician Nikolai Burdenko established the fact that the Germans deliberately poisoned 17 workers from the sheet metal shop with pyrite and then placed them in a German hospital for detailed clinical and laboratory examination. The victims were frequently photographed and demonstrated to German doctors who passed through the town. All this was done for the purpose of testing the efficacy of some medicines.

In view of these and many similar facts concerning the crimes committed by bandits with medical diplomas, Soviet doctors can no longer maintain silence, and call upon the doctors of all the United Nations to place the brand of shame upon the Ger-

man army doctors, who have converted the medical practice into a weapon for the destruction of life.

Do not let the doctors in Hitler's army think that their diplomas will save them from inevitable retribution: they will be made to answer for their crimes together with the other Hitlerite criminals.

(Signed) N. DERZHAVIN, Chairman of the Soviet Scientists Anti-fascist Committee

Academician NIKOLAI BURDENKO, Member of the Extraordinary State Committee for the Ascertaining and Investigation of Crimes Committed by the German-fascist Invaders

Academicians M. AUERBACH, A. ABRIKOSOV, A. D. SPERANSKY; Professors I. G. RUFANOV, T. KRASNOBAYEV, A. N. SYSIN, I. RAZENKOV, A. BARDASAROV, N. SEMASHKO, S. KHALATOV, N. PRIOROV, V. GILYAROVSKY, K. KEYCHEYEV, V. GOBINEVSKAYA, L. PORISHA, O. MAGIDSON, P. ANOKHIN, V. SHAMOV, O. PODVYSOTSKAYA, G. SPERANSKY, E. F. ANDREYEV, V. PARIN, P. SERGEYEV, R. LURIA, V. VINOGRADOV, M. MALINOVSKY, E. LEVIT, V. TRUTNEV, A. LETOVAT, I. KOCHERGIN, A. CHERKES, M. TSEKHONOVITSER, V. MOLCHANOV, V. SKVORTSOV, D. ROSSIISKY, M. PENSNER, N. SHERESHEVSKY, V. KHOROSHKO, D. BURMIN, G. LANG, I. DANDOVSKY, M. MARGULIS and A. RAKHMANOV

Germans Strive to Destroy City and People of Lvov

Mikhail Geraschuk, a resident of Lvov who fled from that city and with the aid of guerrillas reached the front line, made the following report on conditions in this ancient Ukrainian town which has been under the heel of the German occupationists for over three years. Geraschuk, who is 25 years old but looks 50 or 60, spoke with agitation in recalling the horrors of life in the occupied city:

As the first measures of the "new order," the Germans closed down the University and all secondary schools and shot the University professors as "unreliable elements."

In this city where, after the reunion of the Western Ukraine with the USSR, construction of new factories and plants was launched on a large scale and unemployment was abolished, there is now a mass of unemployed brought to the limit of exhaustion.

Many tens of thousands of young men and women have been deported to fascist slavery. Thousands of guiltless residents languish in concentration camps

around the city. The horrors of the German Dachau camp pale before what is going on in the Lvov death camp. To make room for new prisoners the fascists took the inmates of the camp to Peski and shot them.

The Germans boasted that the city had been completely cleared of so-called "undesirable elements." However, during these three years the occupationists have not known a single moment's rest, continuously fearing the vengeance of the Soviet people. When the German "Governor General" Frank came to Lvov, troops were lined up from the station to the house where he stayed, and two rows of gendarmes stood with bayonets pointed toward the sidewalks, although the entire population had been driven into basements under threat of death.

The fascist terror became still more intensified after the capture of Tarnopol by the Red Army. The Germans are demolishing Lvov, striving to carry away everything of value and to exterminate as many Soviet people as possible.

ON THE ODESSA SHORE

By Tatyana Tess

In peacetime, when the big ocean steamers used to arrive at the port of Odessa, odors of far voyages and distant lands came from their holds. The gangways of motorships were alive with tanned holiday-makers in white suits, with bright-colored skull-caps, hair bleached flaxen by the sun.

In the autumn of 1941 endless trains of carts loaded with domestic possessions arrived at the port. Women trundled wheelbarrows loaded with pots, pans and pillows. Tears streamed down the women's faces, children wailed and old women bore a stony look of grief. Enemy planes were poised above the city; the Germans bombed the port 14 times a day.

Then the worst day dawned . . . when the order was given for the evacuation of all troops in Odessa. The artillery had been firing all night without ceasing, and under its cover the troops proceeded to the front. It was dark—the power station was not working. The broad gangways were filled with men emerging in orderly lines, and the troopships departed one after another. By four in the morning the harbor was practically deserted. Silence had fallen, the bombardment was over and the artillerymen came down the port and went aboard the "Kalinin."

The last ship departed. The port was quite empty. The harbor master picked up the telephone. Only the operator remained; she had brought her two small children with her and had worked all night. "The telephone isn't needed any longer," the harbor master said. "Thank you very much . . . you can stop working now." There was a click, then silence. A moment later the telephone operator passed the window, taking her two little children by the hand. One was about three, the other about six. They blinked in the long morning sunlight. The woman stood for some time, shivering a little in the fresh wind, then slowly climbed the hill, looking back every now and again until a turn in the road hid her from sight.

The last persons to leave Odessa boarded the pilot cutter "Sivash." They were the harbor master, Pavlenko; Chief of Staff of the Port Air Raid Preparations, Zagorovsky; Military Prosecutor Pakhomov, and a few others. The cutter slowly explored the waters of the harbor, where not a vessel, not a living soul, was to be seen. On the hill above, the Montsov Palace was dazzling white in the sunlight. Beautiful, inexpressibly sad, Odessa lay in the morning haze . . . a city about to be entered by the enemy.

* * *

. . . And now we were back in Odessa! The sun sparkled on the water, the waves ran up the beach

with a rustle and splash. Formerly everyone had known the harbor by the lighthouse that towered like a great white candle at the breakwater. Involuntarily I sought the lighthouse now, but saw only the waves and rippling blue water. Not believing my eyes I still searched for it, persisting, hoping. But



Major A. D. Weisberg, who has been decorated for his services in the Patriotic War, was graduated in 1936 from the Leningrad Institute of Engineers of the Civil Air Fleet. He later worked in the Arctic, and was chief engineer of the air expedition which removed the greater part of the crews of the drifting ice-breakers "Sadko," "Malygin" and "Sedov." Since June 22, 1941 he has been in the Red Army Air Force, in the Long-Range Aviation Units commanded by Marshal of Aviation A. E. Golovanov. Major Weisberg served as chief engineer of the group which made preparations for the flights of heavy Soviet planes on bombing missions over Berlin, Koenigsberg and other enemy cities.

the lighthouse was no longer there.

The harbor was a dismal landscape of devastation . . . ruins, ashes, cracked and split granite, shell-holes like volcano craters, blown-up piers, wrecked buildings—and everywhere the stone of Odessa, light and porous, exposing its wounds to the sky.

* * *

But despite the havoc-stricken sadness of it all, this is our land, and soon it will be as we want it—full of vigor and the joy of life. This is our land—and we gaze at it greedily and tenderly, searching for and recognizing every stone, as one recognizes the features of a well-loved face.

From the shore a little cutter can be seen darting over the calm water. Somewhere in its wake two waterspouts rise high into the air. A dull but powerful explosion follows from the depth charge released by the cutter, and immediately afterward a mine explodes in the water. The cutter is sweeping the harbor for enemy mines. Again the little vessel darts out into the middle of the bay; again the shore is shaken by an explosion and two waterspouts rise—one white, the other black—as though the enemy's black blood were gushing out.

A thick brown dust has eaten into the stones on the beach; here the enemy brought ashore the iron ore they stole from Krivoi Rog. On railway sidings stand freight cars laden with war materiel, munitions and oilcake. The cars bear German and Rumanian inscriptions. The Germans were in too much of a hurry either to blow them up or take them away.

Barbed-wire stretches all along the beach. The enemy dreaded a landing party. The "Austrian Beach" along which I am walking abounds in barbed-wire and there is a machine-gun nest behind every rock. Evidently the Germans prepared to defend the "Austrian Beach" like a fortress. Here and there rocks bear the words, "De-mined shore," signed "Slipchenko." Further up the beach I find more obstacles, wire, bunkers and dugouts—and Slipchenko's notice.

I finally reach the granite rocks of Langeron Park. When we were children we used to play at jumping from these rocks into the water, or we would lie on them in the sun to get tanned and to feel the heat of the sun-warmed stone through our bodies. Here we reveled in the juicy canteloupes and fragrant green melons covered with a rough network of veins, and from here we went fishing in white boats that rejoiced in such names as "Nadya" or "Lyuba," painted on the stern. Here stood the green-painted wooden lifeboat station and beyond it shady Belinsky street and the trees and lacy shadows of the avenues in Alexandrovsky Park.

Now the rocks are surrounded with rusty wire, which looks as though it had been soaked in blood. Empty sockets of dugouts stare blindly at the clay

shore, the rocks strewn with shell-splinters, the crumpled respirators—all the rusty rubbish of war. Slipchenko's signature appears again on a rock—"De-mined shore." It is a cheering notice, as though a friend had passed along this sinister, enemy-defiled shore and restored our childhood to us.

I later found out that Slipchenko was a Senior Lieutenant of the Guards, first to enter the port with his sappers and to do the dangerous and difficult job of clearing the shore from enemy mines. In order to save the little that remained of the harbor, the enemy's complicated system of mining had to be understood. Under the sand, demolition bombs, each weighing between 75 and 100 kilograms, were laid at a distance of eight to 10 meters apart. Buildings and harbor installations were mined with aerial bombs and mines of tremendous force, which were exploded by means of an electrical system housed in a small dugout, where there was a control switch-board. Thus from this one spot the Germans could methodically blow up the finest buildings, piers and moorings in the port.

The entire system of destruction was discovered by Slipchenko and thus something was saved. Our sappers severed wires and rendered mines harmless, and dug up demolition bombs. Thousands of kilograms of explosives and bombs were brought to the surface, and now the huge mines lie dead. Slipchenko led his men along the shore, clearing it of mines, marking the cleared areas and going on further. And now he had left Odessa altogether, and only his signature remained on the granite shore as evidence of the splendid service he had rendered.

A wisp of blue smoke curled over the water and you could see the capes jutting out into the sea. High up along the shore, where it brightens with spring-time green, lies Odessa—restored to us after long suffering . . . and beautiful still. The lilacs are in bloom, the chestnut trees on the boulevards have unfurled their leaves and the boughs cast light shadows on the ground. The sunshine lies over the ruins of the quiet harbor. All nature is filled with such vigorous life, the air has such vital freshness, that you can almost feel the work of restoration . . . the great renewal of life rising from the ashes.

Restoration in Rostov

The city of Rostov, which was almost completely destroyed by the Germans, is reviving its fame as a cultural center. Rostov University, the Teachers' Institute, the Medical Institute, and nine technical training schools were reopened in the past winter; theaters are again presenting plays, and 37 hospitals, polyclinics and other medical institutes are serving the people.

LETTERS OF SEVASTOPOL CHILDREN

The following letters were written by children during the German siege of Sevastopol and delivered to Moscow by a Soviet tier:

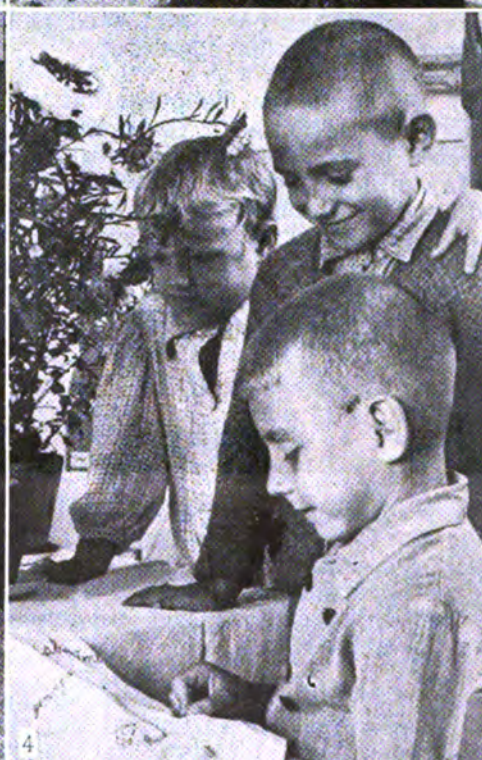
From Vera Sivtsova, 12 years of age:

I have learned to wash clothes. We want to help our soldiers by keeping them supplied with fresh linen. Of course I cannot manage the heavy pieces yet, but I do wash handkerchiefs and neckbands, and mother does the rest. Several times a day we are forced to drop our work and run to the shelter, but we always manage to get it done on time.

Eleven-year-old Seryozha Petrenko wrote:

Vera says that one of our airmen can take our letters to you. I am writing this from the shelter in our backyard. I dug the trench myself. Do you remember our street near the Sevastopol Panorama? Well, there is almost nothing left of it now. I never imagined that just a heap of stones could remain of so many houses.

The top floor of our house is gone, and Mother and I live in the cellar where we used to store things. I am very sorry about losing my room—it was such a jolly little place. I have already dug many trenches to help the boys of our neighborhood. At first I collected the ails of fire-bombs, but I have stopped—there is such a lot of work to do, especially after a bombardment. We help the emergency rescue squads. My mother is not afraid of the shelling any more. We have had no word from Father for some time now.



SOVIET CHILDREN WORK FOR VICTORY

(1) Vitya, a 12-year-old volunteer scout whose parents were killed by the Germans; (2) Students of a Railway School manufacture hammers for tractor drivers; (3) Misha Salnikov, son of a collective farmer, tends the horses after school; (4) At the Voroshilov Railway Workers Kindergarten the children make pillowcases as gifts for the Red Army

The Saratov Church in Wartime

By Grigori, Archbishop of Saratov and Stalingrad

For nearly three years now the Soviet people have been waging their great patriotic struggle against the German invaders who treacherously attacked our country, Russia. The enemy attempted to disorganize our rear and our industries, to terrorize the population and turn our country into a wasteland, to destroy our culture and enslave our great Russian people like other nations of the world, in order that the German nation alone might triumph.

The Russian people rose as one man to the defense of their native land, impelled by a burning hatred of the vile bandits who shed the blood of our fathers, brothers and children, who showed no pity for the tears of widows and orphans and who brought disaster and destruction into our land. The people on the home front are helping our Red Army to attain a complete and final victory.

Throughout the war the Saratov Church lived, and is living, with one thought, one desire, shared by the people—to put an end to this treacherous enemy, to restore what has been destroyed and to help and support those who have suffered.

To this end the congregation of the Saratov Church, in response to the appeal of their clergy, collected money for the Defense Fund, contributed warm clothing and sent it to the front to the wounded and to those who had suffered loss during evacuation. They also organized care of the orphaned children and looked after the wounded in hospitals. The Saratov churchgoers contributed altogether more than 750,000 rubles through the Church for their country's assistance in the struggle against the Germans.

Yes, great is the spirit of the Russian people, unshakable their staunchness and courage; inasmuch as their love for their country is great; inasmuch as their faith in the rightness of their cause is firm. Saratov is but a small drop in the common ocean of contributions to the country's defense and the attainment of victory. But the drops go to swell the



A church in the Leningrad Region wrecked by the German invaders

vast and mighty flood which, with irresistible force, is sweeping and washing away fascist uncleanness from the face of the Russian land.

Once again our native Russia will shine in the radiance of peace, freedom and might, and will build up like the other freedom-loving peoples—her Allies—a peaceful, quiet and happy life.

NOVGOROD'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS WILL BE REBUILT

By a decision of the Committee on Architecture under the Council of the People's Commissars of the USSR, a special studio under the direction of Academician Shchusev has been set up for the planning and restoration of Novgorod. In a recent press interview Shchusev stated:

"The Germans who occupied Novgorod systematically destroyed and ransacked the masterpieces of ancient Russian architecture and the town itself. The German vandals destroyed still another remarkable monument of antiquity situated in the vicinity of Novgorod—the Yuryev Monastery, built in the 12th Century. We shall make drafts, not only for the restoration and repairing of the monuments which have remained partially intact, but also for the complete restoration of ancient masterpieces of Russian

architecture of which nothing but ruins remain. The architectural measurements, drawings and photographs of these monuments which were made in due time will enable us to restore them.

"We shall have to rebuild the town anew. We plan small houses built in a simple style, in keeping with the ancient Russian architecture. Thus the entire town will present a single architectural whole with the remarkable monuments of antiquity, all of which will be restored. This work will be of great importance as the first experiment in the restoration of an ancient town totally demolished by the fascist invaders. The planning and drawing up of projects for Novgorod will be completed approximately within six months."

Military Mission of National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia Visits Moscow

Lieutenant General Milovan Djilas, a member of the Military Mission of the National Committee of Liberation of Yugoslavia which recently visited Moscow, writes in an article published in PRAVDA:

Yugoslavia has entered the fourth year of war, which will be the decisive year in our struggle for national liberation.

Having occupied our country in April, 1941, the Hitlerite invaders believed the natural and manpower resources of Yugoslavia would be placed at the service of the German war machine without much difficulty and would aid the latter. For the past three years we have demonstrated that these calculations were utterly groundless. On German-occupied territory Yugoslavian patriots destroyed coal pits, mines, and a number of factories of military importance. The Germans are unable to supply food at the cost of Yugoslavia even for their troops stationed on our territory. They must bring food for them from Denmark, Holland and other countries.

Two months after the occupation of our country, Hitler was compelled to resume military operations there, but under quite different conditions than in April, 1941, when with the help of traitors he defeated the Yugoslavian army which had been abandoned to the mercy of fate. The casualties sustained by both sides testify to the scope of hostilities waged in Yugoslavia during the three preceding years. According to preliminary data of the Supreme Headquarters of the Yugoslavian National Army of Liberation, enemy troops have lost more than 300,000 men killed. One-third of these were Germans, one-third Italians, and the rest—Bulgarian occupationists, Albanian mercenaries, Ustashis, Mikhailovich's Chetniks and the Croatian satellite army. Casualties of the National Army of Liberation and guerrilla detachments are estimated at 100,000 to 120,000 killed.

These figures show the important part played by the Yugoslavian National Army of Liberation in Southeast Europe, not only as a force which immobilizes a considerable number of Hitlerite troops, but also from the viewpoint of imminent military operations against Germany in the West.

The seasoned, 300,000-strong army of high-fighting capacity under Marshal Tito holds positions on the Germans' southern frontier, in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, and on flanks of the German armies operating in Rumania and in Italy. Against us act a great part of the Second German Tank Army of the Reich Balkan group, part of the troops of

Kesselring's Italian group, also several Bulgarian divisions, Pavelic's Ustashis, Croatian troops and Mikhailovich's Chetniks.

In an article in the *Novaya Yugoslavia*, a magazine issued on March 15, Chief of the Supreme Headquarters Lieutenant General Ivanovic writes that the total strength of these troops exceeds 600,000. "Our fighters," General Ivanovic says, "justly consider that they participate with their blood and sweat in every step of the advance of Allied troops. Already one may foresee what terror to the fascists and their satellites in the Balkans our Army will become after the opening of the second front in Europe and the advance of the Red Army through the Carpathians."

Yugoslavia has become the main force waging the struggle against Hitler in the Balkans, both in virtue of her geographic position and owing to her organization, numbers and fighting experience.

The most important result of our struggle is the achievement of the unity of the peoples of Yugoslavia which the former Yugoslavian governments failed to obtain. Not less than one-half of the whole territory of Yugoslavia has been liberated from the German occupationists. Perfect calm and order reign in liberated territory. State power is growing stronger, relying for support on the people.

We know the Germans will not abandon Yugoslavia of their own will, and we shall exert our utmost efforts to eject them at the earliest date when the new blows of our Allies, the USSR, the United States and Great Britain, rain down upon them. We expect that the Allies will help us with what we need to achieve that purpose.

* * *

Dealing with his stay in the USSR, General Djilas writes:

Our Mission, headed by Lieutenant General Terzic, arrived in the USSR on April 12. We carried out our work in Moscow, and visited the front and the Yugoslavian Volunteer Unit in the USSR. On May 19 General Terzic and myself were received by Marshal Stalin. We spent 10 days in the Ukraine and in Rumania, with the troops of the Second Ukrainian Front. We had a friendly meeting with Marshal Konev, who gave me a present for Tito—his own field glasses and dagger. We regard our stay in the USSR as extremely fruitful. Everywhere we have met with full understanding of our aims and needs on the part of all—from private to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief.

Music of Allies Draws Large Audiences

By Valentin Konin

More English and American music was heard in Moscow last month than during the entire season, and a great deal more is in prospect. Last week's leading events were two grand concerts of English, American and Soviet music arranged by VOKS (All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries), and attended by all the music world and everyone else lucky enough to get tickets. Crowds lined up at the box-office hours before it opened.

English music was represented by Sir Edward Elgar's *Overture In London Town*, Christian Darnton's *Stalingrad*, and Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Suite on English Folk Songs*, played by the State Symphony Orchestra conducted by Professor Orlov. Three folk songs, "Annie Laurie" and "Blow, South Wind"—transcribed by Dmitri Shostakovich—and "No, John, No!" transcribed by Sergei Prokofiev, were superbly rendered by Maria Maksakova. The appeal of these songs was tremendous.

Of course, the beauty of the English folk song has long been indisputable, and yet, as with every genuine artistic phenomenon, each encounter with these melodies produces an impression of an astounding revelation, a new and moving experience. I really think that these English and Scottish folk songs are on a par with the best of English and Scottish lyric poetry. Does not the poetry of Robert Burns, of Wordsworth, Rossetti and even Shelley suggest the same soil that gave birth to these songs? The folk song base of Williams' *Suite* gave it vivid and poetic thematic material.

Darnton's *Stalingrad*, an intense and sincere work, seemed to have little of the national flavor in it. It is written in a wholly cosmopolitan idiom, and if I

may be allowed to judge from a first impression, is not wholly free of signs of Shostakovich's manner of expression.

The American program consisted of the first movement of Roy Harris' *Fifth Symphony*, dedicated to the people of the USSR, Wallingford Riegger's *Canon and Fugue for Strings*, Samuel Barber's *Overture School for Scandal*, played by the State Orchestra under Nikolai Anosov, and three songs—Stephen Foster's "Old Folks at Home," Jerome Kern's "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and George Gershwin's "Love Walked In," all rendered by Sergei Lemeshev. Lemeshev's singing seemed to meet with unqualified approval from the audience, judging by the applause; but I sat through this part of the concert with some discomfort. Lemeshev sang in the best operatic or drawing-room style, which may be very convincing when he sings Tchaikovsky, for instance, but which robbed these American songs of some of their most specific elements. I missed the ballad style in Foster's song; I missed the "Broadway background" in Gershwin. He was made much more tame, and consequently more sentimental, than the buoyant American temperament revealed in his music would allow.

Wallingford Riegger's *Canon and Fugue* was received with real appreciation, and here I was entirely in accord with the general sentiment. This is a beautifully clear and masterful piece of work—combining novelty of theme with the expressiveness of age-old music. Roy Harris' work revealed real individuality, with a very dynamic mode of thinking and original concepts in developing the material. Samuel Barber's *Overture*, charming, accessible and unhackneyed, has been played here before and was received as an old acquaintance.

Coke Production Up in 1943

The Soviet coke and chemical industry is chiefly concentrated in the south, the Urals and Siberia. During the German occupation of the south, the coke and chemical plants of the Eastern Regions were the main source of coke supply for the Soviet iron and steel works. They successfully carried out their tasks. In 1943, production of coke was 20 per cent higher than in 1942, and 106,000 tons were produced in excess of plan.

Summer Plans for Children

This summer 2,370,000 Soviet children of school and pre-school age will be cared for in summer camps, rest homes and special playgrounds.

The People's Commissariat of Health Protection is arranging for medical service at camps and playgrounds, and by direction of the Council of People's Commissars special food allotments are being made for the children.

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Information Bulletin

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Thoughts on the Future

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The *Danziger Vorposten*, anxious to explain the German army's defeats, writes: "The Russians overwhelm us by their superiority in armaments and in numbers. Russia is a country with an inordinately large population and with an unprecedentedly powerful industry."

Germany is trying to act injured and innocent. Reading the article in the *Danziger Vorposten* one might think the Germans are a small nation—a nation of shepherds armed with pitchforks. But Germany possesses a gigantic industry. Factories in the Reich, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Holland supply the German army with first-class armaments. It was not so long ago the Germans

were on the Volga. The Soviet Union lost the Ukraine, the Donbas, Byelorussia, the North Caucasus and a number of Russian provinces. At that time the population of the Soviet Union did not exceed that of Germany and her vassals. The Germans imported into their country over ten million foreign slaves.

The Germans would do better to leave arithmetic alone. We are smashing the enemy not because we have more factories and more men, but because our people are morally superior to the Germans.

The idea of race superiority seems to me the most nonsensical of all prejudices. There are bright pages and dark pages in the history of every nation. People



Radiophoto

WHEN THE RED ARMY ENTERED SEVASTOPOL—A woman describes the horrors of life under German occupation

change. The Burgundy grape transplanted to Kakhetia or California yields wine of a different taste and aroma. Among the German military men there are not a few descendants of the Huguenots.

Nations also change. Germans of the Hitler era little resemble Germans of Goethe's era. When I speak of the superiority of our people over the Germans, I am not referring to genealogies or vague shadows of the past, but to actual realities. The moral qualities of the soldier of the Reichswehr and the soldier of the Red Army were tested on the battlefield.

The Germans made long and careful preparations for this war. I am not referring to designers or generals, but to the moral education of the people, to the cult of war which prevailed in Germany. It may be said without exaggeration that for 80 years Germany regarded arms as the supreme achievement of society. It is precisely this moral preparation of the Germans for war that is the cause of their moral vulnerability. The cult of force gives rise to weakness at the first reverse.

Our people did not prepare for war. That does not mean we looked upon fascism's military preparations with indifference. The industry of the Urals and Siberia which enabled us to stop the Germans was not created in a few weeks or months. It was not in June, 1941 that the Red Army was born. We were not caught unawares. If it had not been for fascism we would have been living better than ever before the war; we would have been making babies' perambulators instead of tanks, and saucepans instead of guns.

Our Government foresaw Hitler's campaign to the East. But our young men did not dream of war. They were inspired by ideas which the purblind might call foolish—ideas of human solidarity, peaceful industry and progress. When one recalls talks in the workers' clubs or at students' parties, one's mind conjures up the face of a man enthusiastic for science or inspired with a love which was remote from the thought of blood.

Now that the Red Army has demonstrated its strength and the whole world speaks of the Soviet Union as one of the strongest military powers, we may say it was the profound love of peace and lofty ideals which helped our people stand the terrific test. We stood it because we did not believe in the triumph of crude force. Even when the enemy was near the terminals of Moscow and the motorbus routes, we knew we were superior to him and consequently stronger.

Our men, in those trying days when they went out to meet tanks armed with nothing but bottles, were aware of the enemy's strength, but they were also aware of his puerility. We were supported by a profound contempt for fascism and for fascists. We

were confronted by an army and only an army. But we were a people in arms.

The Germans love to talk about "Deutschtum," about the "German spirit," about the unity of the people in whom German blood flows. And it is true that in war the Germans displayed unity of organization and discipline. But it is the automatism of criminals, the mutual protection of a huge confederacy of thieves. People are not to be seen in Germany today. You will see soldiers, fathers of soldiers, children of soldiers and wives of soldiers. You will see sergeants and field marshals, armament contractors and cannon-fodder contractors. But you will not see people, living people as diversified as the sea, with their complex life and their inexhaustible spiritual treasures.

Who is Fritz Mueller? The son of a sergeant and grandson of a corporal. Before the war he worked as a salesman in KDW (Kaufhaus des Westens) but that was only a sort of furlough. He knew from his childhood he was to be a conqueror of the world. He studied history as though it were a directory of future victories. To him peace was only a period of preparation for war. He had one ideal, and that was to see the German flag flying on top of Mount Blanc, the Andes, Ararat and the Himalayas. When the German flag should be flying there is something he never thought about. From the time when by the laws of nature children begin to think, Fritz Mueller was weaned from thinking. He was weaned from thought as from his mother's breast. His mind was stuffed with technical knowledge and legalized prejudices. His soul was planed to the ground and perished. It was a soul established to the pattern of the vile soul of a robber and assassin.

There are many different peoples in our country. We recognize the blood of four groups, but that is a matter of medicine. We do not recognize the blood of race. But we have a people. In June, 1941 our soldiers bade farewell to their friends and relatives at the railway station. Beloved faces and native towns receded and were lost in the mist. The train sped westward, but every soldier knew he was drawing nearer to his abandoned home, to his family, his garden, his tools and his books.

When you talk to Red Army men and officers with decoration ribbons and other ribbons of war stripes on either breast, you realize that first and foremost these are seasoned soldiers. They have mastered the military art. They have proved their proficiency in the difficult art of war. They are the best men and proud men. They do not pride themselves on being born for war. They are proud that they—who were schoolmasters, engineers, tillers of the soil, steel-smelters and musicians—protected their country and the higher human values against an assault without parallel in history.

They became soldiers in that simplest and that highest sense of the term, which we find expressed in the words, "soldiers' bread" and "soldiers' friendship." They are suffused with that inward elation which may be called the triumph of man. They became soldiers, but not fire-eaters; although triumphant in war they have not fallen in love with war. They want to get to Berlin because they are thinking of Kiev, of Saratov or Barnaul; they want to build splendid cities and rear happy children.

People in all countries are now talking a lot about postwar life. Rex North, an American journalist, writes of the horror which overcomes man when he thinks of Europe's future, with its wrecked cities and desolated nations. I think this journalist is mistaken; it is not the nations that are desolated, but only those people who sold their spiritual birthright for promises of porridge. But there is no denying it will be hard for the nations which have suffered four years of slavery to return to freedom. It will be hard for other nations, too—those who have not known what true self-sacrifice is—for he who wants to save everything loses everything. We are aware of the difficulties, the ruination and the graves.

But we know our country has become stronger, has grown and matured. I know frontier guards who stood watch on the Prut on June 22, 1941, and who are now back there. They have been fighting for three years. A lucky star saved them from bullets and mines. They are the same people, yet they are different.

We are too much preoccupied with war just now to stop and reflect. A philosopher, moralist or writer needs time. But we can feel how much our people have changed. They have betrayed no one and surrendered nothing, but they have grown fabulously. To realize that growth, one cannot do better than to glance into the cottages in Moldavia or the tents in Byelorussia, where in the evenings long and earnest discussions are held about the past and future. For the schoolmaster knows he will return to his school, the engineer yearns for the work he loves and the farmer dreams of the soil.

Our Army is the builder of our future, and that is the pledge of our happiness. A man who does not grudge his blood for his country, his people and his near ones will not be deterred by any sacrifices. There is a heightened sense of the personal responsibility of the role of each and the role of the State. A real collective body is made up of individuals, not arithmetical integers. In this war not only every commander, but even every soldier understands that he is important and valuable; that upon his courage, knowledge, resourcefulness and fortitude depend the issue of the war and the fate of Russia. In war people do not insure themselves or reinsure themselves. They sacrifice themselves. And, returned to

peaceful labor, our victorious soldiers will still further enhance the significance of society and the significance of every individual. In these three years the sentiment of brotherhood and friendship has grown stronger. Our Army is strong because to the egotism and malice of the enemy it opposes solidarity and warmth of human love. Who can describe the ties of affection between infantrymen of the same platoon or artillerymen of the same battery? A decoration earned by one is a source of pleasure, not envy, to the rest.

When they learn from letters that back home there are still preserved like fossils egotistical and callous officials who do not display adequate concern for the family of a fallen hero or for a disabled man, our soldiers are not so much incensed as amazed, as if they caught a glimpse of some sinister survival of the remote past. They will bring great human warmth into the work of building our new and better society: they know that the success of even the most splendidly conceived idea depends upon the responsiveness, goodwill and conscientiousness of everyone concerned.

Journals abroad often remark on the growth of immorality in the belligerent countries. I will not speak of Germany, which has become a veritable Sodom and Gomorrah. In our young society morals were more an instinctive thing than a written code. Our pedagogues could not keep up with the march of history. In this war our people are not so much thinking of morals as creating them. The schoolteacher who fought for three years can now with confidence talk to children about virtue and vice, nobility and villainy.

It was known of old that war is not a school for morality, but in defiance of all the rules of history morality has grown firmer in our country. I do not want to paint a rosy picture. I know that in our country there are thieves and profiteers, and women who have exchanged the beauty of fidelity for dubious gewgaws. But these are backsliders and freaks, isolated instances. The important thing is not that they are to be found, but that they meet with deep condemnation. Morals are tested in the fire of war, and they will adorn our life after victory.

Crime is terrible when it becomes a common thing and ceases to arouse attention, but in our country it strikes the eye. We have not only stood the test morally, we have grown morally. When writers come to portray man in 1944, the world will understand how our Army has reached the Prut.

We must not be annoyed with art. The gently-flowing river reflects trees and towers, but the mountain stream is not a mirror. These are stormy times. Our writers describe individual episodes, but the reader wants conclusions and generalizations. He will have to wait, for the thinker cannot keep

pace with the seven-league strides of the time. He can grasp the past, he can glimpse the contours of the future, but he cannot yet portray our contemporary with maturity of observation and with the same thought—the image has not yet taken shape in his mind.

To each of our soldiers the past seems a happy time. He has forgotten adversities, hardships, affronts. He remembers work and love, the breath of a child and evenings among the lilacs in the garden. But ask him, "What are you dreaming of? Is it your

past life?" The answer will be, "No, of my future life, which will be a better one."

Therein lies our strength. Other nations want to restore the past. We want to go forward. We will build cities more splendid than those we had before. We will be more kind . . . purer and kinder . . . perhaps more austere, but kinder. Our children, for whose happiness we are fighting, will think of pre-war times without envy. The heroes of Stalingrad and the Dnieper, when they return home from vanquished Berlin, will again astonish the world with the grandeur of their souls.

AERIAL WAR IN MAY

By Lieutenant Colonel Denisov

Late in May the Soviet-German aerial war assumed a somewhat different character compared with the early half of the month, during which the big aerial onslaught on the German-fortified Sevastopol area took place. With the termination of the campaign a lull set in on the entire Soviet-German front, punctuated only by engagements of local importance and by the very effective operations of small groups of Soviet land troops which cut the German attempts to counter-attack in a number of sectors of the front.

However, despite this comparatively "quiet" situation on land, air combats with German fighters and bombers continued. During the latter half of May Soviet fliers and anti-aircraft gunners shot down several hundred German planes, while a considerable number of enemy aircraft were destroyed during raids on airdromes. Such raids on enemy airdromes are effected regularly, and each time are highly effective.

Characteristic of operations of this kind was the mass raid of attack planes and bombers on the Husi and Roman airdromes in Rumania several days ago. Lieutenant Colonel Gavrilov, commander of a group of Petlyakov-2 dive-bombers received an order to attack an enemy airdrome in the evening. His group was to appear over the airdrome one minute and a half before the appearance of the attack planes and to execute two tasks—to silence German anti-aircraft installations and immobilize enemy fighters—to enable the Ilyushin-2 attack planes to make several runs and strike at the grounded enemy bombers.

It was just dawn when flight after flight of dive-bombers went up from the landing field on the bank of the Prut. The leading plane was piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Gavrilov. To insure a surprise attack he permitted the fliers to use their radios only in

emergencies. The planes soon returned to their base. Photographs made by the crew of the plane last to dive on the target showed that the entire corner of the airdrome, tightly packed with German aircraft, was smothered in pillars of smoke.

"The attack planes performed splendidly," said Lieutenant Colonel Gavrilov. "They made several runs over the grounded German planes. Everything there was enveloped in smoke and fire. . . ."

Later when detailed battle reports were compiled and the results of this blow summed up, it transpired that the Germans lost a total of not less than 60 warplanes on the two Rumanian airdromes that morning.

Air battles, blows to airdromes, and attacks on German land troops near the front line were but a part of the war operations of Soviet fliers in the last two weeks of May. Not less important were the operations against German rail and sea communications. During this period Soviet heavy bombers effected a number of raids against large rail centers, both on lines connecting the front with Eastern Prussia and in the Carpathian area. Furthermore, during the second half of May, Soviet fliers sank about 40 various German vessels, including more than 10 large transports of a total displacement of 60,000 to 70,000 tons.

While in the first half of May air operations over the sea were conducted chiefly in the Black Sea basin, the last two weeks of the month were marked by most important activities in the Barents and Baltic Seas. There Soviet fliers spotted several convoys which after thorough air reconnaissance were torpedoed and bombed.

In the last few days large-scale aerial battles were fought in the area north of Jassy, where on May 1 and 31 our forces shot down 164 German planes in that area.

Lieutenant General A. I. Kozlov, commander of a unit of Cossacks from the Don Steppes which has earned special distinction even among these formidable fighters



Cossack unit on the march. The traditions and qualities of the Cossacks, famed for generations as indomitable warriors, are passed on from father to son



Soviet cavalry charge

The National Council of Poland—and the Polish Emigres

From comments in PRAVDA, May 28, 1944:

The arrival in Moscow of the delegates of the National Council of Poland—*Krajowa Rada Narodowa*—formed in Warsaw January 1, 1944 by democratic groups fighting against the German invaders, evoked wide comment in the world press.

The delegates who have arrived in Moscow represent underground patriotic Poland, which is selflessly defending its honor and independence under the hard conditions of German-fascist occupation.

Naturally, the enemies are furious. Goebbels' newspapers in Berlin have run wild in their calumnies, and they are echoed in London by the Polish emigres Sosnkowski, Kukiel and Kot.

In the name of "Polish political circles" those emigres have come out with a statement—as ridiculous as it is insolent—to the effect that they "do not recognize" either the National Council of Poland or its delegates. Those pigmies with inordinate ambition who have learned nothing from history have "decided" to deny the powers of the representatives of fighting Poland on the ground that their credentials are not signed by Sosnkowski! They state that they have "absolutely no knowledge" of the National Council of Poland. They say that the "enumerated parties" that make up the Council are "unknown" to them.

It may be true, perhaps, that emigres of Sosnkowski's group know nothing about the formation of the National Council of Poland; that they know nothing of the parties and groups that are waging active struggle against the Germans in Poland. Those gentlemen who call themselves the "government" know nothing in general, nor can they know, about what is going on in fighting and living Poland, in the people's Poland. Their statement merely corroborates this once more. They have confessed that they have nothing in common with the underground

national liberation struggle that is unfolding in Poland. If the clique of Sosnkowskis has any connections in Poland, it is only with those individuals and organizations which pursue a policy of "collaboration" with the Germans, and in some cases—with the knowledge and consent of the Germans—cover up this policy by a show of passive resistance. How can these shyster politicians who have lost all contact with their country and their long-suffering people, how can these past masters of the policy of inaction, know anything about the Poland that is heroically acting!

Their program is one of inaction in Poland, and very energetic "activity" outside Poland. Naturally the activity of these gentlemen has been exposed; it consists in active opposition to the cause of Allied victory. A London weekly bulletin recently reported that in the Polish army the officers are undoubtedly well-paid by the organs of propaganda to deliver lectures criticizing Churchill and Roosevelt.

The subversive activity of some Poles in the United States is directed by the so-called National Committee of Polish-Americans. It has become quite notorious in the United States. And it is obvious German notoriety. We need but point to the fact that one of the most active organizers of this suspicious committee is Mr. Matuszewski, of whom General Sikorski said in December, 1942 that he "deserves to get the iron cross from Hitler."

The fury of all these pro-Hitler elements among the Polish emigres betrays their impotence. They stand exposed. Their underhand game has been foiled. They cannot palm themselves off as representatives of the Polish people when the people begin to speak for themselves, when the people, permeated with implacable hate of the German-fascist invaders, are rising to holy struggle against the Hitlerite enslavers.

WORK OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY

On May 26 the Soviet press published a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the decoration of leading personnel of the People's Commissariat of Aircraft Industry for the execution of Government assignments in the production, improvement and designing of new types of warplanes and engines for the Red Army.

"This constitutes," *Pravda* writes, "an evidence of the high appraisal of the work of the entire aircraft industry, whose expansion and development during the war reflect the general growth of the

military and economic might of the Soviet State.

"The combat successes of our air forces on the fronts of the Patriotic War are indissolubly linked with the intensive creative effort of the glorious army of workers of the aircraft industry. During the Patriotic War, the output of planes has steadily grown and has now reached its highest level. At the same time, warplanes have been improved in their speed, range and maneuvering capacity, as well as the power of their armament, have been increased."

Safeguarding the Health of Children

By V. Federov

The first Plenum of the Children's Medical Prophylactic Service was held in Moscow in May. More than 500 members of the medical profession from all parts of the country attended, including Professors Tur, Molchanov, Maslov and Speransky, famous Soviet pediatricians, and Professors Dobroshotova, Dombrovskaya, Mendeleva, Kudryavtseva, Garnitskaya and Ugrelidze, distinguished women pediatricians. The practicing doctors and research workers exchanged ideas on their work in wartime. Maria Kovrigina, Assistant Commissar of Health of the USSR, made a report on medical aid to children during the Patriotic War.

Even during the most arduous days of war the Soviet Government did not relax its interest in the health of its young citizens. Special measures were adopted to improve the curative and prophylactic treatment of the younger generation in wartime. Thanks to the splendid work of the children's medical establishments throughout the country, there have been no epidemics during the war, while the number of cases of infectious diseases such as scarlet fever was one-third that of 1940.

Dr. Reimer described her experience in treating patients in the city nurseries. Hospital care for children in nurseries made it possible for employed mothers in industry to continue their work, assured that their children were getting better care than they could give them at home.

Mananikova, Assistant Commissar of Health of the Russian SFSR, confined her report to the medical treatment given children in the liberated regions, where the Germans ruthlessly destroyed children's institutions. In Voronezh, Smolensk and other cities all clinics and hospitals were ransacked and demolished. The health of the children gave rise to serious alarm; they were all extremely undernourished and suffering from nervous disorders.

Rehabilitation of children's institutions was one of the first measures carried out in these cities, with the population and medical personnel taking an active part. The Children's Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Voronezh and the Children's Consultation Center in Dzerzhinsky district in Stalingrad were restored by the medical workers themselves. Nearly all medical establishments in the Moscow, Kalinin, Rostov and Krasnodar Regions are now restored.

Professor Tur of Leningrad spoke of the heroic efforts of Leningrad doctors to save the lives of children under the conditions of blockade, air raids

and artillery bombardment. The most difficult problem faced by public health bodies in Leningrad was proper diet. Pediatricians tried to find supplementary sources of food: good quality substitutes, and the best methods of manufacturing and preparing food. Powdered milk was used under strict control to feed infants. When the shortage of albumen began to be felt, yeast was introduced into children's



Gymnastics in a Soviet primary school

diets and vegetable gardens supplied essential vitamins. Regular routine, good care and proper diet saved hundreds of children.

Because of the incessant artillery shelling, children's institutions in the besieged city were housed in deep basement quarters. It was natural to expect that the health of children would become seriously undermined, but photographs and documents shown at the Plenum were convincing evidence that during the blockade their physical and psychological development was quite normal.

THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING

German Documents on Leningrad Shelling

By Major S. Voinov

On the Leningrad Front the routed enemy troops abandoned not only arms, ammunition and military stores, but important official documents as well. I have just been examining papers discovered at the headquarters of a German artillery group. Of particular interest is a plan of Leningrad, showing the "military objectives" in the city. It had been used by the German 768th Heavy Artillery Battalion (G.H.Q. Reserve).

This plan is covered with figures, each denoting a "military objective." The Hermitage Gallery was No. 9, the Lecture Hall No. 174, the Mother and Child Welfare Institute No. 708, the Students' Settlement No. 162.

Gun data, including range and suitable shells, were given for each number. It was recommended, for instance, to fire high explosive splinter shells at target No. 736, a school in Baburin street, high explosive and incendiary shells at No. 192, the Young Pioneers' Club, and demolition shells at numerous targets marked No. 723—all large apartment houses. Each hospital was shaded in red on the plan. Target No. 96 was the First Psychiatric Hospital, for example.

This plan completely exposes the Command of the German 18th Army, which besieged Leningrad, and will undoubtedly find a place in the final indictment. It is a naked admission of deliberate intent methodically to destroy the most beautiful city of the Soviet Union.

A block of buildings in Bolshaya Zelenina street is marked No. 757. What strategic consideration prompted the Germans to include this among their "military objectives"? The site is covered with large apartment houses, a school, a public nursery and a kindergarten.

The "military diary" of the 768th Heavy Artillery Battalion, discovered along with the map, shows how the day-by-day work of destruction was accomplished. Major Wenner, of the 768th Heavy Artillery Battalion, opened fire on Leningrad on the orders of Major General Kratzer, Commander of the 303rd Artillery Group, and Lieutenant General Tomaschka, who replaced him in September, 1943. These gentry in turn got their orders from Colonel General Lindemann, who was carrying out the instructions of the German Supreme Command.

The 768th Battalion operated on the Leningrad Front from the very beginning of the siege. Here are several entries from the diary:

November 13, 1941: Battalion shelled Moscow Station in accordance with map data. Propaganda company filmed bombardment.

December 5, 1941: 2:35-2:46 P.M. Fired 25 shells at a crowd on Krestovsky Island, in the northern part of St. Petersburg. It was apparently a gathering of evacuees.

December 31, 1941: The night passed quietly. 7:15-7:25 P.M., artillery attack on Warsaw Station area, St. Petersburg (35 shells fired in accordance with map data).

January 17, 1942: Day passed quietly. 10:45 A.M. Four guns made artillery attack on St. Petersburg residential section (38 shells fired). Unable determine results because of bad visibility.

June 3, 1942: On occasion of arrival of two important Finnish artillery officers, all guns of G.H.Q. reserve opened fire at city.

July 30, 1942: 11:24-11:39 A.M. Battalion fired six shells at Palace of Soviets.

August 2, 1942: Battalion fired 10 shells at Palace of Soviets.

The evidence of the diary is supported by the statements of captured German gunners. It seems that any battery officer could open fire on his own initiative, and was commended for it by his superiors. "All three batteries of the battalion were intended for the bombardment of Leningrad," declared non-com Hans Korner, telephone operator of the 768th Battalion. "The first battery was the most active. There were days when it fired as many as 20 shells in half an hour."

Staff Corporal Heinrich Bekker stated: "The second battery, in which I served, was in action almost daily. We fired up to 400 shells a day." Sergeant Corporal Arno Wolle, of the 4th Battery, 53rd Battalion, added: "The men used to laugh when they read the Supreme Command communiques about the bombardment of Leningrad. They knew perfectly well what the objectives were."

Prefabricated Buildings for Stalingrad

At a building conference recently called by the Stalingrad Party Committee it was reported that 62,500 square feet of living accommodations had been built in two months, and that several factories were producing standard parts from which club-dwelling-houses and theaters could be assembled.

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5

Spring Sowing Better than in 1943

By A. Savchenko-Belsky

Figures available at this date [May 30] reveal that in a number of regions and Republics better progress has been made in the spring sowing this year than last. So far, roughly 3,500,000 hectares more have been sown than in the same period in 1943, and of this excess over 2,000,000 hectares are in grain crops. This also includes the work of regions liberated from German occupation.

In general, more than half the country's sowing

plan has been carried out, which means that the collective farms have every opportunity to fulfill the plan set by the Government calling for an expansion of the grain area throughout the country by 5,400,000 hectares.

These successes cannot be credited to any unusually favorable weather conditions. On the contrary, in the central and northern districts spring began later than last year. In the south the farmers had to over-



Last year the Lenin Collective Farm in the Buryat-Mongolian Republic harvested an abundant crop

come great difficulties in the first period of the sowing season, when variable weather and frequent rain greatly hampered field work.

Two factors underlie the improved performance this year: first, the selfless labor of the collective farmers who see in a big harvest an important contribution to victory over the enemy; second, the condition of tractors.

A typical example of this year's spring sowing is the Kursk Region, which suffered heavily at the Germans' hands. It was liberated only last year. The fascists razed many of its villages, wrecked the machine and tractor stations, drove off the horses, and destroyed the farm implements. Yet last autumn the Region had already sown 68 per cent of its prewar winter crop area, and this spring fulfilled its sowing plan by 200 per cent by May 15.

Although this was possible only because of the extensive aid rendered by State and collective farms in the rear, the main lever making for success was the selfless labor of the collective farmers. Tractors are run 22 hours daily, but breakdowns and hitches are exceptions, testifying to the greater skill of those in charge of the machines.

A factor making for more efficient tractor operation was the extensive aid rendered by industrial enterprises, which produced in addition to their regular output a supply of spare parts for tractors and other farm machines, sending crews of skilled repair workers into the countryside and providing materials and tools needed for repairs.

In the Kursk Region, to cite another example, available tractors could have handled no more than 40 per cent of the field work even if used to capacity. Nor is there any other region with enough tractors to handle all the work of the spring sowing; hence the farmers had to find additional sources of draft power. Many collective farms, while making maximum use of all other means at their disposal, also employed harnessed cows.

In the Kursk Region the farmers had 110,000 to 140,000 cows in the fields during the sowing, plowing and harrowing. This included not only the collectively owned cattle, but those of the collective farmers as well. By May 10 two and one-half hectares per cow had been worked, the equivalent of the work of 3,000 tractors. This meant, of course, that the farmers themselves had to invest a tremendous amount of effort.

★ ★ ★

It is gratifying to note that the sowing of the most important industrial crops is also progressing at a faster pace than last year. Cotton planting, now completed, was carried through within the time limit most promising for the harvest. Almost twice as much sugar beet has been sown. Sunflower sowing runs well ahead of last year, with an area more than twice as large sown to date. The plan for planting rubber-bearing kok-sagyz was fulfilled by May 15. Owing to the late spring in the central and northern areas, flax sowing is behind last year's level. Flax farms will have to work with great intensity to make up for the lost time.

The weather in the southern part of the Soviet Union is favoring the rapid maturing of grain crops. In the Central Asian Republics dozens of districts have begun the grain harvest, while the first grain of this year's harvest has already been delivered to State elevators in Tajikistan.

Haying time is on in Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and a number of other southern areas. Weeding of fields under grain and industrial crops is in full swing, and fallow plowing winds up the season's cycle of field work.

According to reports, the condition of both winter and spring crops as a whole throughout the country may be said to be average and somewhat above average. The moisture stored in the soil is quite sufficient for the normal development of crops during the early part of the growing period.

NO VITAMIN DEFICIENCIES IN RED ARMY

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has decorated 181 vitaminologists and engineers, technicians and workers for "outstanding services in developing the science of vitamins and for excellent execution of Government assignments in supplying the Red Army with vitamin concentrates and preparations."

Among those who have received the Order of Lenin are Academician Alexei Bakh, Director of the Institute of Biochemistry under the Soviet Academy of Sciences; Lieutenant General of Medical Science Leon Orbeli; Alexander Palladin, Vice President of

the Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine; and Professor Alexander Schmidt, Director of the Vitamin Institute.

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It was with deep emotion that I set foot on your soil last week. I have visited Uelkal, Seimchan, Magadan, Komsomolsk and Yakutsk. I have made the acquaintance of your agricultural experts. I have also seen the determination of the Soviet people to give maximum output in mines, metallurgical plants, aircraft factories and shipyards. I have worked in your vegetable gardens and met your vegetable gardeners. I have seen cows of high breeds. I have seen hogs and poultry.

I have seen your airdrome structures and made the acquaintance of your fliers and military men, among whom I wish especially to note General Semenov and Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel Mazuruk. Among your prominent administrators, I should like to mention the Director of the Dalstroy trust, Niki-shov, as well as the directors of factories and plants in the rapidly growing town of youth—Komsomolsk.

There exist no other two countries more alike than the Soviet Union and the United States of America. The vast expanses of your country, her virgin forests, wide rivers and large lakes, all kinds of climate—from tropical to polar—her inexhaustible natural wealth, remind me of my homeland.

The history of Siberia and her heroic population reminds me of the history of the Far West of the United States. The pioneers of our countries, in titanic struggle with nature, with the hard conditions of life, fearlessly forged ahead, built new towns and villages, a new industry, a new life, for the good of their homeland and of all humanity. In this struggle, in this constructive work, characters were steeled, the finest human features were developed, innate social instincts were manifested and a sense of common solidarity asserted itself.

It is not accidental that in the present war, Siberia has played and continues to play such an enormous part. Her soldiers are in the front ranks on all fronts and do important work in the rear. Her technical forces within the shortest period created a new, complete arsenal needed by the great Red Army in fight-

ing the hateful, strong enemy, and thus considerably contributed to its victories. A free people born on free expanses cannot tolerate any injustice and violence, and cannot even temporarily live in slavery.

Now that the early dawn of the future postwar peace slowly rises on the horizon it becomes quite clear that only the full collaboration of our two great countries and their Allies may insure for the world peaceful conditions and correct development. In the cause of major postwar reconstruction it will be vitally necessary that in the interests of the whole world the important role of the northwestern part of the United States of America, Canada, Alaska and Soviet Siberia be recognized.

These tremendous, sparsely populated territories have been conquered in our days by aviation. They now need development both in their agriculture and industry. The duty of the United States and Canada is to make resolute scientific efforts for the development of their northern districts, as this was demonstrated by the Soviet Union in the case of the development of Siberia and the Far East. I am certain that by means of an exchange of information, seeds and the best breeds of cattle with the Soviet Union, Canada and the United States may considerably raise the productivity of all these districts.

The tremendous masses of people who lived through all the horrors of common and personal disasters believe that their sufferings and sacrifices were not in vain, and that the horrible days of war will be followed by bright days of peace and justice, of plenty, and peace for every man. My present tour of districts of the Soviet Far East and Siberia, my visits to factories and plants in those districts, to experimental agricultural stations and fields, my meetings and talks with directors of industrial enterprises and agricultural institutions, with workers and the best Stakhanovites of the war industry and agriculture, their enormous interest in everything going on in my country—the United States of America—inspire me with firm confidence that the friendship between our great countries, cemented by the blood of the finest sons of the peoples of two countries on the fronts of the life and death struggle against Hitlerite Germany—the enemy of humanity—will grow and gain strength also after the war.

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come great difficulties in the first period of the sowing season, when variable weather and frequent rain greatly hampered field work.

Two factors underlie the improved performance this year: first, the selfless labor of the collective farmers who see in a big harvest an important contribution to victory over the enemy; second, the condition of tractors.

A typical example of this year's spring sowing is the Kursk Region, which suffered heavily at the Germans' hands. It was liberated only last year. The fascists razed many of its villages, wrecked the machine and tractor stations, drove off the horses, and destroyed the farm implements. Yet last autumn the Region had already sown 68 per cent of its prewar winter crop area, and this spring fulfilled its sowing plan by 200 per cent by May 15.

Although this was possible only because of the extensive aid rendered by State and collective farms in the rear, the main lever making for success was the selfless labor of the collective farmers. Tractors are run 22 hours daily, but breakdowns and hitches are exceptions, testifying to the greater skill of those in charge of the machines.

A factor making for more efficient tractor operation was the extensive aid rendered by industrial enterprises, which produced in addition to their regular output a supply of spare parts for tractors and other farm machines, sending crews of skilled repair workers into the countryside and providing materials and tools needed for repairs.

In the Kursk Region, to cite another example, available tractors could have handled no more than 40 per cent of the field work even if used to capacity. Nor is there any other region with enough tractors to handle all the work of the spring sowing; hence the farmers had to find additional sources of draft power. Many collective farms, while making maximum use of all other means at their disposal, also employed harnessed cows.

In the Kursk Region the farmers had 110,000 to 140,000 cows in the fields during the sowing, plowing and harrowing. This included not only the collectively owned cattle, but those of the collective farmers as well. By May 10 two and one-half hectares per cow had been worked, the equivalent of the work of 3,000 tractors. This meant, of course, that the farmers themselves had to invest a tremendous amount of effort.

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It is gratifying to note that the sowing of the most important industrial crops is also progressing at a faster pace than last year. Cotton planting, now completed, was carried through within the time limit most promising for the harvest. Almost twice as much sugar beet has been sown. Sunflower sowing runs well ahead of last year, with an area more than twice as large sown to date. The plan for planting rubber-bearing kok-sagyz was fulfilled by May 15. Owing to the late spring in the central and northern areas, flax sowing is behind last year's level. Flax farms will have to work with great intensity to make up for the lost time.

The weather in the southern part of the Soviet Union is favoring the rapid maturing of grain crops. In the Central Asian Republics dozens of districts have begun the grain harvest, while the first grain of this year's harvest has already been delivered to State elevators in Tajikistan.

Haying time is on in Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and a number of other southern areas. Weeding of fields under grain and industrial crops is in full swing, and fallow plowing winds up the season's cycle of field work.

According to reports, the condition of both winter and spring crops as a whole throughout the country may be said to be average and somewhat above average. The moisture stored in the soil is quite sufficient for the normal development of crops during the early part of the growing period.

NO VITAMIN DEFICIENCIES IN RED ARMY

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has decorated 181 vitaminologists and engineers, technicians and workers for "outstanding services in developing the science of vitamins and for excellent execution of Government assignments in supplying the Red Army with vitamin concentrates and preparations."

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TEN YEARS AFTER THE CHELYUSKIN RESCUE

The following is by Georgi Ushakov, well-known Soviet scientist who took part in the rescue of the Chelyuskin expedition in April, 1934, directing the activities of Soviet pilots who went to the aid of the crew and passengers of the Chelyuskin from the United States.

In February, 1934 the Chelyuskin, a ship of a Soviet Polar expedition headed by Professor Otto Schmidt, was crushed by ice packs, and sank in the Chukotka Sea. The expedition had been undertaken to prove the feasibility of the Great Northern Sea Route by repeating the trip of the icebreaker Sibiriyakov, which in 1932 made the voyage through the Arctic wastes from the White Sea to the Bering Strait in a single navigation season—the first time in history.

The Chelyuskin safely negotiated the entire coastline of the Soviet Union, but upon emerging into the Bering Strait was crushed by ice, going down at 68 degrees north latitude and 173 degrees west longitude. One hundred and four seamen, scientists and Polar workers were stranded on a stretch of jagged ice 150 kilometers from the nearest section of the sparsely-inhabited tundra of the coastline of Chukotka. Among them were nine women and two children, one of the latter an infant girl, Karina, born aboard ship in the Kara Sea.

Millions throughout the world listened eagerly for news of the camp on the ice, and anxiously followed the rescue activities. Progressive mankind was deeply concerned, displaying the greatest sympathy for those whose struggle against the elements had placed them at the mercy of the frozen seas.

Only the fascist press sneered at Soviet rescue plans. *The Voelkischer Beobachter* maintained that the rescue planes must perish, that the landing of each machine would entail great risk and depend entirely upon luck. The paper even suggested it would be best to abandon the Chelyuskin people to their fate and discontinue radio communications with the camp—claiming that this communication was from a psychological point of view a cruelty, as it tended to nurture futile hopes among the victims.

The fascists concluded by advising the Chelyuskin crew to save themselves on foot; the strongest might survive. This plan, providing for the salvation of the strong at the expense of the weak, revealed the predatory psychology of fascism, which mankind knows so well today.

The reply to this was given by the members of the expedition in their stalwart discipline and their confidence in the might of their country. The Soviet Government hurled against the elements its planes, ships, mechanized transports and icebreakers.

“Not a single person shall be abandoned to the Arctic”—was the promise voiced by Joseph Stalin.

One after another Soviet fliers took up the struggle against the elements. Anatoli Lyapidevsky was the first to reach the Arctic stronghold; on March 5 his metal bird landed on the ice near the camp and rescued the women and children.

Lyapidevsky's feat strengthened the Chelyuskin crew in the belief that they would be rescued. The offensive against the forces that held them captive was launched in accordance with the rules of war—by sea, air and land. Through the darkness of the Polar night and heavy blizzards N. Kamanin, V. Molokov, M. Vodopyanov, I. Doronin and others flew on the mission of rescue.

Finally, on April 7, a number of planes reached Vankarem, the point nearest the camp—a rescue base on the Chukotka Peninsula. That day Pilots Molokov and Kamanin rescued five persons.

But the Arctic showed signs of further battle: a storm blew up and destroyed the Chelyuskin airfield, which had been rolled before the planes were due, and a part of the camp. Only on April 10 was a new landing-field prepared, and between then and April 13 the Soviet fliers brought back all the members of the Chelyuskin expedition. Even the dogs were flown from the camp to the mainland.

It was at this time that the Soviet Government instituted its highest distinction for outstanding services—the title of Hero of the Soviet Union—which was conferred for the first time upon the fliers who participated in the rescue: Lyapidevsky, Molokov, Kamanin, Vodopyanov, Slepnev, Doronin and Levanevsky.

At the time of the rescue I accompanied Pilots Levanevsky and Slepnev to the Chelyuskin camp by way of the United States, and while in that country was able to observe the sympathy of the American people. Upon arrival in New York we were warmly greeted by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the American Polar explorer, and a number of fliers. The Pan-American Airways Company sold us two aircraft in Alaska. Two American mechanics participated directly in the rescue flights to Chukotka and were later awarded the Order of Lenin by the Soviet Government.

The technical collaboration and attention extended the Soviet fliers and explorers by the American people and their official representatives deeply impressed the people of the USSR. It is remembered with particular pleasure today, when both countries are fighting side by side in the great war against the dark forces of fascism, a war for the finest ideals of mankind, for the liberty of all peoples and for a bright future.

Letter of Patriarchal Incumbent Alexei to Marshal Stalin

The Incumbent Patriarch, Metropolitan Alexei, recently sent the following letter to Marshal J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars:

Dear Joseph Vissarionovich:

Our Orthodox Church has been subjected to a sudden and severe trial: Patriarch Sergius, who headed the Russian Church for 18 years, has expired.



Alexei, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod, and Incumbent Patriarch

You well know how sagaciously he fulfilled his difficult duties. You know, too, of his love for his country, and the patriotism that inspired him in the present epoch of ordeals of war. We, his closest associates, know also of the sincere love he cherished for you, and his loyalty to you as the wise God-willed leader (a constant expression of his) of the peoples of our great Union.

This sentiment he cherished particularly strongly after his personal acquaintance with you during the meeting on September 4 of last year, a meeting so unforgettable for us. On more than one occasion I heard him recall that meeting with the warmest sentiments, and speak of the great historical importance he attached to the attention—so valuable to us—displayed by you with regard to the needs of the Church.

His death is a bereavement to our Church. Under the will of the deceased Patriarch, God has ordained that I assume the duties of Incumbent Patriarch.

At this most important moment of my life and service to the Church, I feel the need to express to you, dear Joseph Vissarionovich, my own personal sentiments.

In my future activity I will be constantly and unswervingly guided by the principles which underlay the church activity of the late Patriarch: adherence to the canons and rules of the church on the one hand, and deep loyalty to country and to our Government, headed by you, on the other. Acting in full concord with the Council on Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church, I, together with the Holy Synod founded by the late Patriarch, will be insured against mistakes and incorrect steps.

I beg you, deeply esteemed and dear Joseph Vissarionovich, to accept these, my assurances, with the same good will as they emanate from me, and to trust in the feelings of deep love for you and in the gratitude that inspires all those associated with the Church I will henceforth head.

(Signed) ALEXEI, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod, and Incumbent Patriarch
Moscow, May 19, 1944.

Wounded Red Army Men Convalesce in Crimea

During their occupation of the Crimea, the Germans destroyed the health resorts of the southern coast. The Sanatorium for Scientists in Gaspra, where Leo Tolstoy once lived, and which was established by the great writer to aid tuberculosis sufferers, was demolished by the Hitlerites.

Restoration is already under way. Parks and gardens are being cleared of rubbish and sanatoriums repaired. The work has progressed so swiftly that wounded Red Army men are now recuperating in 10 of the restored health centers.

ACTIVITIES OF 'PAN-TURKISTS'

An IZVESTIA observer writes:

The sortie of the Turkish Hitlerites known as the "Pan-Turkists,"—we refer to the Pan-Turkist demonstration held in Ankara on May 3 under fascist slogans—and the subsequent arrests of some ring-leaders of this movement, remain one of the main subjects of Turkish press comment. An official statement of the Turkish Government published by the Anatolian News Agency late in May revealed that the Pan-Turkish agents of the German espionage service had at their disposal a dense web of underground organizations in Turkey, using their own codes for communicating among themselves and with their Berlin center.

The activities of these organizations, the statement of the Turkish Government said, are in contradiction to the present regime in Turkey as defined by the Constitution. The Turkish press reports that searches at homes of arrested Pan-Turkists have revealed irrefutable proof of their espionage activities in Germany's favor. Turkish authorities arrested the Pan-Turkish Ihsan Savis, editor of the Hitlerite newspaper *Tuerkische Post*, published in Istanbul.

The subversive activities of the German agents—the Pan-Turkists—were invariably directed against the internal security of Turkey. However, strange as it may seem, Turkish authorities for a long time winked at the work of these Hitlerite flunkies, while some people in Turkey evidently reassured themselves by the fact that the sharp edge of Pan-Turkist propaganda was directed at the Soviet Union. For a long time various fascist publications such as the magazines *Biinuk Dogu*, *Devrim*, *Kopuz* and *Cinartaly* appeared in Turkey. Turkish publishing houses with German money printed the "works" of Pan-Turkists such as the pamphlet by Ogiuz Tiurkan "On the Road to Nationalism," or the booklet by Namyk Orkun "Turks Throughout the World," etc. The organization of Pan-Turkists, the "Turan," which constituted a branch of the German Intelligence Service, had affiliations in many towns of Turkey, in educational establishments where it recruited agents for espionage and sabotage activities on behalf of Germany.

One cannot say that the police were unaware of these activities. On the contrary, in some places (for instance in Istanbul), certain highly placed police officials were directly connected with Pan-Turkists. Furthermore, their most prominent ringleaders such as Erkilet, Redjeb, Pekker, and Djelal Baiar by no means considered it necessary to conceal their sympathies for Hitlerite Germany. These enemies of Turkish independence and mercenary agents of Hitlerite Germany who openly preached the vile racial

"theories" of fascism in Turkey, far from meeting a rebuff enjoyed even the protection of some influential persons and organizations. It is noteworthy that when the Turkish newspaper *Tan* published a favorable review of Erkman's book "The Greatest Danger," which exposed the machinations of the Pan-Turkists, and in particular "A Story of Turkism," concocted by Namyk Orkun, many Turkish newspapers took the Pan-Turkists under their wing and attacked *Tan*.

At present, after the authorities took measures against the Pan-Turkist plot, Turkish public opinion attempts to draw some conclusions from the very fact of the unpunished activities of the "fifth column" in Turkey. One can fully agree with the newspaper *Vatan* which stated, concerning the activities of Pan-Turkists, that "a more shameless and vile attempt against the independence, existence and security of the Turkish nation cannot be imagined."

In Turkey some public men ask themselves: how could it happen that these plotters were able to act with impunity? Professor Hiklet Baidur, speaking in Medjlis in a budget debate stated: "I ask the Government and Party where were our heads when this propaganda was conducted for years, and why did we permit it to reach such scope? Was it not within our power to put a check on such propaganda?"

The question is certainly to the point. Only one reply can be given to it. A resolute, ruthless struggle must be waged against Pan-Turkism—such is the conclusion at which ever wider Turkish public circles are arriving, which call for uprooting the Hitlerite Secret Service in Turkey masking itself under the guise of "Turanism," "Pan-Turkism" and other synonyms of racism.

Yalcin, writing in the newspaper *Tanin*, shows that the ideas and methods of the "secret" organization exposed in Turkey plainly originate from Berlin. The near future will show what practical conclusions will be drawn from these correct postulates.

Soviet Commanders Decorated

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded the Order of Suvorov to Marshal Ivan Konev and Lieutenant Generals Filip Zhmachenko and Sergei Trofimenko. Lieutenant General Ivan Managarov, Lieutenant General of Tank Troops Ivan Sussaikov and Major General Vladimir Sharapov received the Order of Kutuzov.

Eight Red Army generals and officers, including Colonel General Matvei Zakharov, were decorated with the Order of Bogdan Khmel'nitsky, 21 generals and officers with the Order of Suvorov and five generals and officers with the Order of Kutuzov.

FRANCO'S MASK

In IZVESTIA observer writes:

The Spanish radio announced with much pomp the ceremony held recently in the German embassy in Madrid on the occasion of the decoration of survivors of the Spanish "Blue Division" which, as is well known, has been routed on the Soviet-German front.

The ceremony of presentation of military decorations was attended by leaders of the German-fascist organization in Madrid, and of the Spanish Falange. According to the Spanish radio, "moving" speeches exchanged during this ceremony again confirmed the friendly relations between Spain and Germany.

Naive people might say that this fact does not characterize the foreign policy of Spain, whose leaders in every way strive to make the world believe that Spain observes neutrality. It was in this vein that the Spanish foreign minister and Franco himself spoke recently. This tune is now variously harped upon by the Madrid Falange newspapers.

The Spanish Falangists, however, carefully conceal facts of the very recent past when Spain considered herself not as a neutral but only as a "non-belligerent" country sympathizing with the fascist "Axis." This was unambiguously proclaimed in Franco's declaration of December 19, 1941. These declarations—Franco made many of them—so far have not been annulled; neither was Franco's signature annulled on the document in which he solidarized himself with the anti-Soviet activities of the "Axis." Neither have there been abolished a number of military strategic measures taken by the Spanish government to please Franco's Berlin friends.

not to speak of the economic assistance rendered by Spain to Hitler, all doors for which are by no means closed even now.

The bloodthirsty hangman of the Spanish people now dons the cape of "neutrality." However, the fascist nudity of Franco is not to be covered by anything. The British newspaper *News Chronicle* has every reason to emphasize, as it does, that Franco is one of the most malicious and abominable fascists of Europe. The American newspaper *PM* recalls that Franco Spain herself joined the anti-democratic front, that she sent troops for the struggle against the Soviet Union, that she placed at the Germans' disposal bases for German U-boats, etc.

The crushing blows dealt to the Germans on the Soviet-German front, and the unfavorable international situation which arose in this connection for all of Hitler's underlings, compel Franco and his press to change their tone and put on a mask. The Madrid Falange newspaper *ABC* goes as far as to deny the ideologic affinity between the Falangists and German fascism. However, in 1943 the same newspaper demanded "lebensraum" for Spain and claimed Gibraltar, and not Gibraltar alone. After the instructions of their Berlin teachers the Franco propagandists were redrawing the map of Northern and Equatorial Africa in favor of Spain, aggrandizing her colonial possessions by eight to nine times.

Certainly times are changing, and the Franco gang takes stock of the change in the international weather. As the saying goes, "When the devil is sick he is ready to become a monk." However, who would believe that the devil had changed his nature?

LESSONS OF HISTORY

The following article is from WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 10:

The dispute between pessimists and optimists in the sphere of the philosophy of history is an eternal one. The former assert that history only teaches us that it has never taught anybody anything at the proper time, while the latter, on the contrary, are believers in the ancient Roman aphorism that "History is the teacher of life." Life is so rich and varied as to provide countless illustrations in support of both these views.

It would be difficult to find a more striking confirmation of the pessimistic view in history than the behavior of the Polish government-in-exile and the Polish reactionary circles grouped around it. Truly,

they are the people who have forgotten nothing and have learned nothing. All the more noteworthy, therefore, is the voice of a man who belonged to the former ruling circles of Poland and who betrays the desire to learn something from history and to draw certain essential conclusions from its highly instructive lessons.

We are referring to the public utterances of the Polish General Lujan Zeligowski, whose past record is fresh in the minds of us all. In the light of events of the day, General Zeligowski is trying to understand certain fundamental questions relating to the existence of the Polish nation and the Polish state. He arrives at the conclusion that it is high time the Poles, who are a Slav nation, found a common language with other Slav nations and in the first place

with the peoples of the Soviet Union whose Army of liberation is already so close to the German-oppressed land of Poland.

General Zeligowski calls upon his fellow countrymen to foil the schemes of the German invaders, the age-old enemy of the Slav nations, who are striving to sow enmity between the Poles and Russians. He rightly reminds them that the Germans build their predatory schemes on the hope of setting the Slavs at loggerheads and inciting them to fratricidal warfare, and then laying upon them the yoke of slavery.

There can be no doubt that General Zeligowski's admonition is in conformity with the interests not only of the Slav peoples, but of all freedom-loving nations who are fighting German aggression. It is directed against the German schemes of expansion towards the East—"Drang nach Osten").

We will not enter, of course, into a discussion of Zeligowski's views of the events in the past in which he played so active a part. The important thing is that Zeligowski has been able to draw a vital conclusion from the instructive lessons of modern history, and therein lies the positive value of his utterances.

In his next utterance, which took the form of a letter to the Chairman of the Polish National Council, General Zeligowski voiced a number of bitter

truths regarding the policy of the Polish government-in-exile, which he quite rightly characterized as an unreal policy which had arrived at an impasse and which was doing harm to the Polish people and cause in the common struggle against Hitlerism. What objection can be made to General Zeligowski when he writes that it is precisely this disastrous policy of the Polish reactionaries which opens the way to German propaganda in its efforts to foment conflict between Poland and the Soviet Union?

General Zeligowski complains in this letter that he has been unable for a long time to get a reply from Polish official authorities to whom he submitted his proposal to his fellow countrymen, with the request that he be allowed to make this appeal over the radio. But, on the other hand, he received a fairly clear reply from the not unnotorious Polish reactionary Mackiewicz who, in connection with Zeligowski's position, expressed regret in the press that Zeligowski had not died in Vilna! Evidently no other reply is to be expected from the Polish reactionaries.

It is significant that the Polish government-in-exile so fears the truth that it carefully conceals General Zeligowski's appeal from the Poles.

Truly, history is the great teacher of life!

AWARDS TO SOVIET SEAMEN

On June 1 the Soviet press published a decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR conferring the title of Hero of the Soviet Union on 19 Naval officers and petty officers.

On the same day a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR was published, on the promotion of Naval officers and generals to higher military rank. Admirals Kuznetsov and Issakov were promoted to the rank of Fleet Admiral.

Commenting on the awards PRAVDA writes:

"The awards made to Soviet seamen signify the high appraisal of the combat actions of our Navy. Our blows at German communications are quite painful for the enemy. In the past 10 days torpedo cutters and the Air Arm of the Baltic and Northern Fleets have sunk some 30 enemy ships.

"The Germans use sea routes to bring up replenishments and provisions for their troops in the Arctic regions of Finland and in the Baltic countries. But their transports of arms, provisions and manpower fall prey to our ships and Air Force. This year the number of enemy ships sunk has grown from month to month. Unable to abandon sea transportation the Germans are compelled to strengthen

ship escorts. Convoys in which the number of escort ships exceeds that of transports by two, five and even seven times have become a common occurrence. Soviet seamen have forced the Germans to escort one transport with dozens of warships and large groups of aircraft....

"Actively striking the enemy at his bases and on the sea, Soviet seamen simultaneously defend their own bases with skill and insure the safety of their communications. All enemy attempts to block our ocean routes linking the Soviet Union with the United States and England have failed. Convoys proceeding to our ports under escort of Allied warships and met by Soviet seamen and fliers safely arrive at their destination without losses...."

Kalinin's Lathe Still in Use

The lathe at which Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, worked in 1900—in the factory now known as the Stalin Railway Engine and Car Repair Works—is still in use. Present-day workers of the plant recalled this when the title of Hero of Socialist Labor was recently conferred upon Kalinin.

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JUN 6 1944



INVASION OF EUROPE BEGINS

By Major General M. Galaktionov

The words which head this article are in themselves significant of the importance of events now taking place. The operation, or rather, the combination of operations begun by our Allies on the night of June 5-6 is not only of paramount importance, but is also difficult and complex.

The invasion of Europe is taking place under conditions the parallel to which it would be impossible to find in the history of war. Practically the whole of Western Europe is in the hands of Hitler Germany: her armed forces hold the whole coast-line from Norway to the Pyrenees and from Southern France to the Balkans.

True, a year ago our Allies landed in Italy. But there they were confronted by only limited enemy

forces. . . . The invasion of the west coast of Europe is being undertaken under entirely different conditions. It is obvious that here Hitler Germany will be compelled to put up all the resistance she is still capable of after three years of war on the Soviet-German front, and when that front to this day is containing Germany's main forces.

The invasion cannot be regarded as the partial landing in North Africa in November, 1942. General Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in the European theater stated in his message of June 6 that the landing was "part of the plan for the liberation of Europe, coordinated with our Russian Allies."

To be successful an invasion operation must de-



Soviet machine gunners supporting an infantry attack during the fighting for Sevastopol

Radiophoto

velop in three stages. The first is the landing operation as such. It must inevitably pass into the second stage: the fight for the establishment of broad beachheads on which large armed forces can deploy. The third stage will be the carrying of operations into the European Continent.

It is of course still impossible to say what tactics the German command will adopt to oppose the Allied landings. It is very likely that since it is unable, owing to the Allies' domination of the seas and their superiority in the air, to prevent a landing, it will resort to tactics of counter-blows by massed forces in the most important areas.

In order to counter these tactics the Allied Command will no doubt strive swiftly and energetically to develop operations with the object of extending the beachheads to the utmost and accumulating increasing quantities of troops and armament.

It is these considerations which explain the thorough preparations which were made for the invasion and which demanded considerable time and immense effort. The plans for these operations drawn up by General Eisenhower's Staff no doubt provide not only for landing, which in itself is an extremely complex operation, but also for uninterrupted reinforcement of the landing parties with the aim of exploiting the successes gained.

Extremely large British and American forces numbering several million men are concentrated in the British Isles. These troops are persistently trained in the special forms of combat for which they are designed. The invasion army is fully equipped with modern weapons of warfare of all types and purposes. A powerful air force has been assigned to afford air cover for the invasion army, and before the invasion began carried out operations over Germany in which several thousand craft engaged. A large airborne force has been created. The might of the Anglo-American Navy is well known.

The figures mentioned by Premier Churchill—4,000 ships together with several thousand minor vessels and 11,000 aircraft of the first line, which took part in the first stage of the invasion—are enough in themselves to give an idea of the scale of operations now in progress and the all-round measures taken to insure their success. . . .

In Gallipoli in 1915 the British troops used ordinary boats for the landing operation and sustained drastic losses. Since then the technique of landing has made big strides. In the period of preparation for the invasion numerous landing craft of various types were developed, from small assault craft carrying 30 to 50 men to large vessels of four or five thousand tons displacement adapted for the landing of tanks and motor vehicles.

Of course, even with such vessels, landing under enemy fire is a hazardous and costly operation, the

success of which can only be guaranteed by powerful fire protection from warships and aircraft and by the speedy action, heroism and proficiency of troops. . . .

The swift exploitation of a success wherever gained is a fundamental law of landing operations. It is premature to say where the focal point of the Allies' efforts is located. It is obvious that the main fighting will be for the ports of Cherbourg and Havre. At the same time, stubborn fighting is developing at the mouths of the Vire and the Orne. The most important thing is to establish broad and reliable bridgeheads, and this is what the Command of the landing operations is aiming at.

Churchill has stated that Allied troops have already managed to establish strongpoints along a wide front.

A novel feature of these operations is the wide employment of airborne troops. Parachute troops were landed about 20 kilometers from the shore and also apparently at even greater depth. We learn from Churchill's statement that airborne operations are proceeding satisfactorily and that parachutists have seized a number of important points in the enemy rear.

The difficulty of these operations cannot be overlooked, but the risk will repay itself a hundredfold if the airborne troops succeed in consolidating themselves in the rear of the enemy, which will greatly help to expedite the development of landing operations as a whole by making it possible all the sooner to overcome the Germans' fortified coastal zones.

The Soviet people and the Red Army who for three years have known the hardships and dangers of a war fought single-handed with Hitler Germany are following with the keenest sympathy the stern struggle on the northern coast of France. We admire the dauntlessness of the men who are storming the coastal fortifications and the heroism of the parachute troops landed in the rear of the enemy.

The blood shed in behalf of the common Allied cause in the East, West and South will help to cement still more firmly the foundation of the great fellowship in arms of the freedom-loving nations, which by concerted blows will definitely crush Hitler Germany.

Frontier Guards Honored

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded orders and medals to a number of generals, officers, sergeants and privates of the Frontier Troops under the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR.

The awards were made in recognition of the exemplary execution of the task of guarding the State frontiers of the USSR, and for valor in action.

SOVIET GOVERNMENT AWARDS ORDER OF SUVOROV TO GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL

On Monday, June 5, 1944, at 8:00 P.M. at the Embassy of the USSR in Washington, a ceremony was held decorating the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General George C. Marshall, with the Order of Suvorov, First Degree.

General Marshall was decorated with the Order of Suvorov, First Degree, by the ukase of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of March 24, 1944, for outstanding military activities and merits in the leadership of the American Armed Forces in the fight against the common enemy of the Soviet Union and the United States—Hitlerite Germany.

The Order was presented to General Marshall by Mr. Andrei A. Gromyko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR to the United States on behalf of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

★ ★ ★

Text of Ambassador Gromyko's presentation speech:

General Marshall and Distinguished Guests:

I am very happy to see you here today at the Embassy.

About two months ago I had the honor to transmit to the United States Government orders and medals which the Soviet Government had awarded to members of the United States forces of the Army and the Navy, as well as representatives of the Merchant Marine of the United States, who distinguished themselves in the struggle against the common foe.

Today, on instructions of the Soviet Government I have the pleasure to hand to you, General Marshall, the Order of Suvorov, First Degree, which has been awarded to you for outstanding military activities and skill in the leadership of the United States Armed Forces in the struggle against the common enemy of the Soviet Union and the United States—Hitlerite Germany.

The awarding to you of the Order of Suvorov is an expression of recognition by the Soviet Government and the Soviet people of your high qualities as a military leader of the United States Army. The fighting cooperation of the United States Army with the Red Army in the fight against Hitlerite Germany is arousing fear in the enemy and hopes for a speedy liberation from the Hitlerite yoke in the subjugated peoples of Europe. A considerable part of the successes achieved by the Allies on the

fronts of North Africa, in Italy and in the aerial war over Europe, should undoubtedly be credited to your personal activities in the most responsible post of one of the strongest armies in the world.

The decoration being handed to you represents not only the recognition of your personal merit, but is a symbol of the further strengthening of the fighting cooperation of our countries in the achievement of final victory over the hated enemy.



General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army

At the present moment, when the Armed Forces of the powerful Allied coalition are preparing to deal a decisive blow to Hitlerite Germany, the importance of the military cooperation between our armies, as in general the cooperation between our countries, is growing still greater.

Permit me, General, to congratulate you on the high award—the Order bearing the name of the unconquerable Russian General Alexander Suvorov—and to wish you further success in your work in your most responsible post. Permit me to express the firm confidence, which I am sure you too share,

that the successes of our Armed Forces are a guarantee of complete and speedy victory in the coming decisive battles against Hitlerite Germany, which is the enemy of all progressive mankind.

★ ★ ★

Text of General Marshall's reply:

I am profoundly honored by the action of the USSR in awarding me the decoration of the Order of Suvorov, and I accept it for the American Army as a symbol of your regard and appreciation of our war effort.

That it is tendered by a country which has made a historic defense against the titanic assault of the

German army at the height of its efficiency and numbers, a country whose Armies are presently in the actual process of destroying Nazi military formations on the Eastern Front, gives this decoration great significance, of which I am deeply conscious.

The final action in this terrible European war is presently focused on a single battle wherein every Allied Force will be represented. It is to be a battle to the death for the Nazis and a battle to victory for the Allies.

I give my thanks for the honor accorded me tonight with full appreciation of the magnitude of what has been done and what is about to be done by the Armies of the USSR.

THE DNEIPER GUARDED HER SHIPS

Before the war the Dnieper, the main water artery of the Soviet Ukraine, served as a most convenient route for Byelorussian timber, Poltava wheat and Donets Basin coal. A large river fleet of about 2,000 units, highly mechanized ports and landing-stages made it possible to transport cargoes at high speed.

For over two years the Germans tried to force the Dnieper to serve them. The "Second Field Waterway Detachment of the German Army in the East," the Hermann Goering Werke, the Organization Todt and the "Bureau for Construction of Waterways under the General Commissariat of the Ukraine" all tried their hand at salvaging the sunken Soviet river fleet.

The ports lay dead. Soviet patriots wrecked steamers and ship-repairing equipment. Guerrillas attacked German shipping on the Dnieper, preventing the enemy from getting his loot away. And the Dnieper clung to her ships. She sheltered them securely in her depths until she could deliver them into the right hands.

The work of salvage began by night, while the right bank was still in enemy hands. Near Golaya Pristan water transport workers, who labored in the darkness to salvage a cutter, were on two occasions compelled to sink her again at dawn so as not to betray themselves. Each time, however, the cutter was sunk nearer the bank in shallower water, and on the third night was finally set afloat and towed into the reed-beds for repairs.

Parallel with salvaging of ships, restoration of the fleet is well under way. Two hundred ships have already been repaired. It took only 20 days to restore the most powerful steamer of the Dnieper Fleet, its flagship Lomonosov. The steamers Zhda-

nov, Krupskaya, Academician Bogomolets, Polina Ossipenko and a number of other craft have also been recommissioned.

The ports, ship-repairing plants, landing-stages and yards are being restored simultaneously. The principal shops at the Kiev ship-repair plants have been restored almost to prewar capacity. Restoration of the Zaporozhye, Kherson and Cherkassy ship-repair yards is proceeding rapidly.

Navigation began on the Dnieper in March. About 50 per cent of the freight consists of building materials for the reconstruction of the Ukraine.

Leningrad Medical Workers Decorated

One hundred and sixty-seven medical workers of Leningrad have been awarded decorations for outstanding services in the protection of the health of Leningrad citizens and of Red Army men of the Leningrad Front during the Patriotic War.

Red Fleet Sinks 400 Enemy Transports in Two Years

In two years the Red Fleet has sunk over 400 enemy transports with a total displacement of 2,500,000 tons. This figure does not include German losses in battleships and auxiliary ships. In 1942 the Air Arm of the Red Fleet alone sank enemy transports and battleships with a total displacement of over 1,000,000 tons. These losses have compelled the Germans to use large forces to protect their communications.

THE TRIUMPH OF MAN

By Ilya Ehrenburg

In days of calm the world seems dull to some people. The black and white of baseness and nobility are fogged by routine. But in these terrible times everything is tested—on the battlefield, on the rack, on the edge of the grave.

I want to tell the story of one man. Its theme, like that of many other true tales of today, is the triumph of man over the power of evil.

It is the story of Sutzkever, a Jewish poet who is also a guerrilla member of a Lithuanian detachment. Sutzkever arrived in Moscow with a parcel containing some letters written by Maxim Gorky and Roman Rolland, a diary of a servant of Peter I, some drawings by Repin, a painting by Levitan, a letter written by Leo Tolstoy and many other precious Russian relics.

He had saved them from destruction by the Nazis.

I first heard of Sutzkever's poems in the days long ago. A famous Austrian novelist introduced me to them.

In June, 1942 a German train carrying armaments leaped into the air near Novaya Vileika. Who planted the mines? The dwellers in the ghetto at Vilnius. They were doomed. But they fought. That German train was on its way eastward. The enemy was preparing his second offensive against us. The train was blown up by guerrillas from the ghetto of Vilnius.

There were 80,000 Jews in Vilnius. The Germans didn't want to kill them all at once. They wanted to delight in the prolonged agony of their victims. They set up two death camps. They protracted the executions. They took two years for the killings.

Before the war there lived in Berlin a film actor called Kittel. He was too bad an actor even for Ufa films. So he got another job. He became a hangman.

For this job he undoubtedly had a flair. He killed tens of thousands of people in Riga. Then he came to Vilnius, charged with the task of "liquidating" the ghetto.

Each morning a fresh lot was rounded up. They knew that if the command was "Right turn!" they would be driven to hard labor. If it was "Left turn!" it meant Ponyri station, and death. That continued for 700 days.

What went on in this world of death, where women gave birth knowing that they were giving birth to doomed infants, where doctors treated their patients knowing that execution awaited the sick, the convalescent, and the physicians themselves?

In January, 1942 a guerrilla detachment was formed in the ghetto. It was led by Vittenberg, a 40-year-old worker. The Germans came to arrest him. He hid underground. Kittel announced that if

he did not surrender alive, all the population of the ghetto would be wiped out.

Vittenberg knew that whether he surrendered or not, his fellow-citizens were doomed. But he was anxious to give his brother guerrillas time to get away to the forest. He took leave of his friends. He said: "It is bitter that I can't shoot myself." And he went to Kittel. Sutzkever walked with him to the gates of the ghetto. Now, when he mentions Vittenberg, he turns his face aside.

The ghetto was Soviet land. The doomed people listened secretly to forbidden broadcasts, printed the Soviet Information Bureau bulletins, celebrated May 1, November 7 and February 23. A German arsenal was blown up in Burbishek. Jews assaulted their guards with their bare hands on the way to the execution site.

Then one fine day 300 Jews got hold of arms. The Germans dynamited all the houses where they were suspected of hiding. But the 300 braves broke out of the ghetto and joined the Lithuanian guerrillas. Sutzkever was one of them. They made their way along the sewage pipes. One of them went insane on that journey.

A Lithuanian peasant woman hid Sutzkever. In the street of the village where she lived stood a German gallows, and on that gallows dangled the body of a Lithuanian, and on that body was a tag bearing the inscription: "He hid Jews."

The Jew Sutzkever said to this Lithuanian woman: "Do you know what is written there?"

"Yes, I know," she replied. Soviet friendship is no mere word.

The poet Sutzkever and his fellow-guerrillas fought for the freedom of Soviet Lithuania. Among them were Lithuanians and Russians, Poles and Jews.

The insurgent from Vilnius fought with tommy gun in hand, poetry in his mind, and Gorky's letter over his heart. I have seen that letter. The familiar handwriting is faded. It tells of the Russia of the future, about the strength of man.

Tajik Science

At the first session of the recently formed Tajik Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, held this month in Stalinabad, the capital of Tajikistan, about 40 papers were read dealing with various spheres of scientific work in the Republic. Visitors attended from other Republics of Central Asia.

My Impressions of the Polish Army in the USSR

By Oscar Lange

Professor of the University of Chicago

The following article appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, Number 11:

The Polish Army in the USSR represents a rapidly growing force. It already consists of several rifle divisions and a number of formations and units of other arms. As the Red Army advances westward, liberating from German occupation new territories in which a section of the population is made up of Poles, the ranks of the Polish Army grow. This Army is becoming a serious political force which is undoubtedly due to exert no small influence on the destiny of Poland.

In view of this I came to the Soviet Union to make a personal study of the Polish Army and to find out for myself what is its character, and in what spirit it would act in Poland; and also what sort of factor it might prove to be in the sphere of international relations.

With this aim I visited many troop formations, studied the Army's organization, its material base and the sentiments prevailing in it. I had a number of talks with Polish soldiers in an exceptionally free atmosphere. The soldiers expressed their wishes and opinions and asked me numerous questions. I, for my part, asked questions and received most detailed information in reply.

All this has given me a comprehensive idea of the sentiments in the Army, and this in turn enables me to draw conclusions regarding the political influence which the Polish Army will have after its return to Poland.

The Polish Army in the USSR is made up of four main groups. The first group are Poles who were transplanted to the interior of the USSR from regions in the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia, which were incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1939. The second group are Poles who have arrived from Polish territories occupied by Germans and annexed to Germany. They were drafted into the German army of labor battalions attached to the German army and were later taken prisoner or came over to the side of the Red Army. The third group represents Poles from districts recently liberated by the Red Army. The fourth are the so-called Soviet Poles, who are Soviet citizens of long standing. This category is the smallest in number and is made up of cadre officers transferred from the Red Army. Mention should also be made of the small group of officers who fought in the ranks of

the International Brigade of the Spanish Republican Army.

As for its social composition the Polish Army in the USSR is made up mainly of peasants; then come industrial workers, professionals and other social groups. The population of all sections of Poland and its borderlands is represented in the Polish Army. As an American citizen I was interested in the fact that many soldiers, approximately one-third of the Army, have relatives in the United States. This fact provides additional evidence of close demographic connections between Poland and America. In my talks with Polish soldiers I asked them whether they wanted Poland to be the same as before the war, or if they thought that changes should take place, and exactly what changes they expected.

The answers to this question were quite unanimous. The men do not want to return to prewar Poland. They regard its government and the regime which then existed as responsible for the disaster of 1939. They unanimously want a strong and democratic Poland. They are of the opinion that the guarantee of the strength and future of the Polish State must be its democratic character. To the question, in what is the democratic character of the Polish State to consist, I heard replies such as the following: "A government chosen by the people, not by a clique," "freedom of speech and labor," "a government responsible to the people," etc.

There is a unanimous demand for agrarian reform. The expropriation of large estates by the State and the division of the land among the peasants—that is the universal demand. On this point I have not come across a single exception. The Polish soldiers are of the opinion that the future agrarian system of Poland should be based on private ownership and individual farms. The majority of the soldiers also are aware of the necessity for progress and technical improvements in Poland's agriculture. They suggest two methods to achieve these aims: either to organize cooperatives for the purchase of agricultural machines and equipment, or to set up State-run machine and tractor stations to serve the peasant farms.

The soldiers also demand far-reaching alterations in industry and the credit system. They unanimously demand elimination of the large industrial monopolies; in the first place the cartels. As regards the methods of achieving this aim, large sections of soldiers favor nationalization of big industry and

banks; others confine themselves to the statement that monopolies must be eliminated, without specifying what is to be done. It is, however, the unanimous wish of all soldiers with whom I had occasion to talk that small industry should remain in private hands.

The soldiers of the Polish Army are unreservedly opposed to the Polish government-in-exile in London. I heard opinions such as, "It would be better if it didn't exist at all." In the opinion of the men, this government represents the direct continuation of the prewar regime which was responsible for 1939.

However, the men do not express the same negative attitude to all members of the government. Some of them asked me about Premier Mikolajczyk and wondered why he and those of his colleagues who prior to the war championed democracy have now become the tools of Raczkiewicz and Sosnkowski. I was also often asked why Britain tolerated such a government on its territory, and particularly why British authorities permitted the passing of sentences such as those passed by the military tribunals of Sosnkowski's Polish army in Palestine.

The soldiers of the Polish Army in the USSR show a lively interest in Polish troops outside the Soviet Union. I was asked many times, "Where is Anders' army?" "After all, they are our brothers. Why do they not come to us so that we could march into Poland together?" "Would you say that from Italy it is nearer to our native land than from Rovno and Lutsk?" Such questions were literally showered on me.

The soldiers, however, proved well-informed of the activity and location of Polish troops outside the USSR. Great indignation was expressed over the trial in Palestine where the Polish court-martial sentenced officers to 20 years imprisonment for sending General Berling a message expressing their desire to join the Polish Army in the USSR. In this connection the soldiers express grave apprehension as to what may happen when other troops brought up in the spirit of blind hatred for democracy and progress return to Poland.

Polish soldiers are firm in their attitude toward the Germans. Asked whether they want to stop at the western frontiers of Poland or advance farther inside Germany in order to finish off the mortal enemy, the soldiers usually reply, "We will march on into Germany; the viper must be destroyed." This reply meets with universal approval. As for the western frontiers of Poland, I heard the wish expressed that they should be extended.

As regards the eastern frontiers of Poland, the soldiers are of the opinion that they should be demarcated by amicable agreement with the Ukrain-

ian and Byelorussian peoples. Some soldiers said they thought it was still too early to speak of this. "We must first smash the Germans," they maintain. Polish soldiers trust the Soviet Union's friendly intentions in dealing with this question. "The Soviet Union will not wrong us," they say.

When I asked the soldiers what was their opinion of the Curzon line, the answers were for the most part in favor of it. Some, however, suggested certain corrections to it. According to the opinion of the soldiers, friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union must serve as the foundation on which the security of Poland will rest. This conviction is at present reinforced by the brotherhood-in-arms with the Red Army, of which Polish soldiers speak with great respect and appreciation. They say, "We are grateful to the Soviet Union for its aid and alliance; we give in exchange alliance and aid, and we are certain that the Soviet Union will not interfere in our internal affairs."

The Polish soldiers regard the Czechoslovaks as a brother people particularly close and akin to the Poles. That is why Poland must maintain ties of friendship with Czechoslovakia. The soldiers condemn the anti-Czech policy of prewar Poland.

The mood of the Polish troops is excellent. They are waiting impatiently for the moment when they will join issue with the enemy. In the battle at Lenino in 1943 the First Polish Division passed its test in action. It passed it with an "excellent mark." From its ranks emerged three heroes of the Soviet Union. The technical equipment which the Polish Army received from the Red Army is of splendid quality and quite sufficient as regards quantity.

The men and officers are homesick for Poland and eager to return home as soon as possible. They know, however, that they must work their way back in severe battles with the enemy by fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Red Army.

By its numerical strength, as well as by virtue of the consciousness of its aims, the Polish Army in the USSR represents a serious factor not only in Polish but in international politics. This factor cannot be ignored even though it is, of course, by no means the sole factor that will determine Poland's future destinies. There exist Polish armed forces outside the USSR too, and after the war they will return to Poland. Above all there exists the Polish people, which is the most important and decisive factor. However, the Polish Army in the USSR will be the first Army to set foot on the territory of its country. This circumstance lends it special significance.

The interests of the United States and Great Britain demand from the American and English peoples the proper and timely appreciation of the Polish Army in the USSR.

RZHEV RISING FROM RUINS

By S. Komarov

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Rzhev City Soviet

When you walk through the streets and squares of Rzhev today, you can scarcely believe that little more than a year has elapsed since the Soviet flag was again raised over this long-suffering Volga city, which the Germans practically razed to the ground. The results of restoration efforts here speak eloquently of the constructive force of the Soviet system.

Despite the hardships of war the Government appropriated large funds for the rehabilitation of Rzhev, the construction program for the city amounting to over 10 million rubles in 1943. Nearly three million were invested in rehabilitation work through the municipal budget alone. These figures have already been translated into factories, homes, schools, hospitals and child welfare centers.

In the last year we began construction of two electric power plants, a saw-mill, a mechanized bakery, a brewery, 17 shops of the municipal industrial combine, eight producing cooperative shops and a food processing plant.

There are no longer people living in dugouts in Rzhev. We have restored some 1,000 homes with an aggregate floor space of 64,000 square meters, as well as the public baths, the first section of the waterworks and a hotel. Our citizens receive medical care in two hospitals and several clinics. Restaurants, stores and barber shops have been opened. Children have resumed study in two secondary schools and an agricultural school, and five kindergartens and nurseries have been opened for the youngsters. The city has been wired for telephone and radio. Most of the restored factories and local industry successfully carried out their year's plan, and the municipal services yielded profits.

Rzhev citizens challenged those of Vyazma to socialist competition in the quick rebuilding of their cities. The people devote the hours after work and on Sundays to rehabilitation. On 16 Sundays volunteer squads collected building materials, and on 26 they gathered metal scrap—all of which greatly facilitated reconstruction.

Hundreds took part in rebuilding the municipal apartment houses, and 614 people repaired their own homes. Most of the work was organized by members of the Rzhev Soviet, including Voronov, former commander of the Third Rzhev Guerrilla Detachment and now head of the Housing Committee of the City Soviet; Khrenov, a former guerrilla, now Director of the Municipal Industrial Combine; Chair-

man of the Public Health Committee Khitrova, railway worker Kuzmina and printing worker Safonova.

The municipal budget for 1944, approved by the Executive Committee of the Regional Soviet, provides for the expenditure of 5,586,000 rubles, or nearly twice last year's appropriation. In addition, Rzhev was granted 2,745,000 rubles from the Regional budget and several more millions from the Republic budget.

This year we plan to expand our local industries, putting into operation a number of enterprises through joint Republic and Union action, including a brick and tile works, furniture factory, flax carding factory and flax mill. We intend to restore scores of apartment houses, two school buildings, a children's nursery and kindergarten and the library building. We shall build a milk kitchen, and restore the Infectious Diseases Section of the City Hospital. Another hospital will be restored shortly, and a moving picture theater under construction is scheduled to open soon.

Regenerated Rzhev will have a monument to Lenin, and much work will be devoted to planting trees in the parks, improving the streets and building bridges. In the second year of their liberation the people of Rzhev will live still better and enjoy greater cultural facilities.

Red Army Men Study

In intervals between battles, Soviet soldiers continue their education, read newspapers and attend new films and lectures. Red Army officers and men make up more than 50 per cent of the 2,000 students of the Correspondence Division of Moscow State University. Many had attended the University before the war, and are now making every effort to continue their studies.

Each month the publishing houses of the Capital send two to two and one-half million books to the front. For soldiers of other than Russian nationalities, the great classics are printed by the Military Publishing House in the various languages of the peoples of the USSR.

Cultural life at the front is centered in clubs set up in blindages and dugouts, in forests, and in planes or trucks which always keep up with the troops.

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The Fate of the Six-Barreled Mortars

By Ilya Ehrenburg

In February, 1942 the citizens of Bremen were deafened by a fanfare of trumpets: the First Heavy French-Mortar Regiment was going to the East. "We have a secret new gun," the Germans told each other impressively. They believed they could take Moscow, the Caucasus and Mesopotamia with their six-barreled mortars. This regiment consisted of 1,400 picked troops armed with 80 six-barreled mortars.

It was in the summer of 1942 that the first disillusionment befell the First Regiment: it lost over half its manpower and nearly all its mortars in the

Crimea. The surviving soldiers were transferred far into the rear.

In January the regiment was again replenished and sent to the Caucasus: the German command attempted to check the Russian advance with heavy mortars. For the Germans themselves, these mortars proved very heavy indeed. Abandoning arms, the soldiers fled westward, never pausing for breath until they reached Berdichev. Here the First Regiment—actually the Third—formed again.

In July, 1943 Hitler resolved to take the Kursk



Soviet troops force a water barrier by foot bridge and barge

Radiophoto

salient. The First Heavy Mortar Regiment was flung into the Belgorod area. Recalling those battles Gefreiter Bruno Richter says with a sigh, "My God, what disappointment! The command placed great hopes in the heavy mortars. A week later our famous march to the Dnieper began. When we reached the Dnieper we were minus 40 six-barreled guns and more than 500 men.

"It was decided to form the First Regiment for the fourth time and to this end reinforcements and 40 more six-barreled mortars were sent from Germany."

In March of 1944 the First Regiment was mauled badly and fled. Unteroffizier Fuchs tells us: "We stuck in the mud. We abandoned even our haversacks, let alone our heavy mortars. Ragged and hungry as we were, we marched westward hoping for nothing but to get back to Germany. The unanimous opinion among officers and soldiers was that the war was lost."

There will be no fifth edition of the First Heavy Mortar Regiment. The survivors were transferred to a sapper battalion. Thus ended one more regiment. Thus perished one more hope: six-barreled guns had failed, like the Tigers and Ferdinands, to save Hitler. Six-barreled mortars led to the unanimous opinion that it was all up with the Germans.

Fear and Insurance

At the funeral of citizens of Essen who were killed during an air raid, Goebbels exclaimed, "Who can estimate the value of a German's life!" His own, however, he estimated accurately: he insured it for \$2,490,000. Executioner Himmler was more modest and decided that his person was worth no more than \$635,000 all told. Ley, the notorious robber, estimates his life at \$841,000, but Goering sets a high price on himself and has made enough money out of the war to insure his life for \$4,000,000. Ribbentrop, the commercial traveler of the Third Reich, outdid them all. Brisk and businesslike, he insured his life for \$5,665,000.

This insurance is connected with fear: these people's thoughts are running toward the denouement. In proportion to the Red Army's advance on Germany's borders, the insurance companies of the Argentine become more exacting. No one feels inclined in 1944 to insure either Himmler or Goering from the well-soaped noose.

But Goering and Himmler do not grudge the money: they are thinking of their posterity. The cannibals' offspring must be provided for—if not with human flesh, at least with beefsteaks. A useless precaution. Justice is concerned not only with the fate of robbers, but also the fate of robbers' booty. The five cannibals enumerated own \$16,415,000 in foreign banks. Besides this, their lives are insured

for \$13,631,000.

Thus, after the criminals have died on the gallows or the guillotine, those who suffered may inherit \$30,000,000. One of the smaller towns, Karachev or Saint Claude, wrecked by the Germans might be rebuilt with that sum. As regards other towns destroyed by the Germans, the grenadiers and jaggers will have to work hard and the cannibals' children will have to fast.

The Aunt in Madrid

In a tale by a German writer of very little talent I read the following observation: "When you are living a stormy and restless life in the capital, it is pleasant to have somewhere far away in the provinces, an obscure but devoted aunt. In case of need she will shelter you. Though her means are not large, still she will help you as far as she can, and what is most important, she will rehabilitate you to a relentless world. She will write a letter to the cruel creditor or the harsh superior, and if need be will ask the hand of the local belle for you."

Hitler has an aunt in a distant province, and she is no ordinary aunt, but a rare one with a general's rank and a general's riding breeches. Her name is General Franco or the "Caudillo." There was a time when Hitler helped this aunt to throw the Spaniards out of Spain and seize Madrid. We remember how German ships destroyed Almeria and how German planes razed Guernica.

One good turn deserves another, so General Franco does what he can for Hitler. All the Fuehrer has to do is to whisper, "How about some wolfram?" and the wolfram is already in Germany, and a speech about neutrality is made in Madrid—everything is done. Franco sent his hidalgos to Leningrad without delay—not forgetting to utter another reminder that he was neutral three times over.

Naturally Hitler thinks the world of his aunt. This is the *Voelkischer Beobachter's* description of General Franco: "Reserve and modesty are characteristic of him . . . he has brown eyes, peace-loving eyes, a plump face, fuzzy dark hair and a sturdy physique of medium height. His courtesy, geniality and consideration appear only in the intimate circle of his friends."

A charming aunt, is she not? Who will accuse the handsome fellow with the plump face and peace-loving eyes of tormenting thousands of Spanish people who declined to become the lackeys of a lackey?

The Caudillo's courtesy, geniality and consideration are meant for his intimate circle—that is, for the Germans—but it appears that he can be cordial to certain strangers, too. Ribbentrop himself envies him his finesse: the Spanish aunt is regarded in Berlin as a first-rate diplomat. The *Voelkischer Beobachter* lays stress on two circumstances favorable to the

nephew: "Spain must not enter the war." "General Franco received diplomats in the Prado Castle, which is used as a hunting lodge near Madrid."

This castle has become the "Thieves' Den" of Europe. Marshal Petain came there in his time. Recently two French fascists, Rigaud and Dubreuil, arrived there from Algiers. They are negotiating with the notorious traitors Frossard, Demonsy and Bonnet. The Spanish aunt is not only capable as a matchmaker, but is also a first-rate bawd. And Hitler blesses her for it. Worried though he is by news of the operations now in the offing in the West, the Fuehrer thinks, "Auntie will get me out of it."

But auntie won't. People know what auntie has been up to and her turn will come. We have, after all, certain claims on her. We are not going to forget the Tsarskoye Selo Palaces, plundered by the Caudillo's ragamuffins, and the Soviet people killed by his "volunteers." It is a long way to El Prado, of course, but the Goddess of Justice has keen eyes and sturdy legs.

Their Traditions

I have here a letter written by Lieutenant Rudolf Schackert, who is in a hospital in the rear.

"You'll understand me, dear Ernst, my heart bleeds! When you were far in the north, I was fighting for the Crimea. My best friends were killed there. We remember right from our schooldays that the land for which German blood has been shed is German land, but apparently the Crimea will soon be evacuated. Hans Tilt talks only of one thing—he cannot bear the evacuation of Zhitomir. I have only one consolation: that we made our claims on these lands with our blood, the blood of the best, and even if through the plutocrats' treachery we lose this war, Germany will never forget that her sons were in the Ukraine and in Sevastopol. The Volga may be called a campaign, but the Crimea and the Ukraine are conquests. If I survive I shall tell Otto about the Crimean gardens and he will dream of the day when he is grown up and can restore what has been lost. I have the feeling that a hundred years' war has begun, and though there will probably be interruptions, we shall get our own back."

I ask the reader to ponder this letter of Rudolf Schackert's. He is not the only one who is dreaming of new wars—there are plenty of Germans like him. It is not enough for us to drive out the Germans. We have to go to them. We have to pay a visit there: the fate of future generations demands this. We have to break the Germans of many habits, and we won't do it by sermons and reports.

The most terrible mistake of all is to believe in the substitute for repentant tears already being manufactured in the Reich. Germany's behavior on the day after defeat may be judged by the behavior of German war prisoners. This is one of the latest speaking:

"What is your name?"

"Fritz Lauter."

"Profession?"

"Clerk."

"Are you a German?"

"What do you mean? . . . Well, you see my maternal grandmother was half-Polish. In general, I sympathize with the Russians."

"Have you sympathized for a long time?"

"Always. It is a family tradition."

We know these family traditions. We saw something of them in 1914. We verified their vitality. Lieutenant Rudolf Schackert plans to hand down these traditions to his son Otto. An end must be put to their traditions! I am not saying they should forego their memories. But they should remember not only 1914 and 1941. They should remember the year, month and day when we enter Berlin—without keys and without ceremony.

Patriots Give Tanks and Planes

Many Soviet citizens have followed the example of the well-known Saratov collective farmer, Ferapont Golovaty, who recently bought a second plane for the Red Army with his savings and presented it to pilot Major Yerechin. Ivan Spokashevsky, chairman of a collective farm in the Stalino Region, purchased a plane for his son, a Red Army flier. Four collective farm women in Singur village, Zhitomir Region, presented a tank to the best tank crew of the unit which liberated their native village.

Red Army men often receive similar gifts from their fathers. Pankratov, chief mechanic of a building trust, contributed 58,000 rubles to the Defense Fund with the request that it be used to manufacture a self-propelled gun for his son, senior sergeant of an artillery unit.

Moscow Production in May

Moscow industry has considerably exceeded the May production program. Especially great were the achievements of the shipbuilding industry, ammunition factories, machine-building, electrical appliances, ferrous, chemical, rubber and textile industries and non-ferrous metallurgy.

German 'Technique' of Annihilation of Peaceful Soviet Citizens

By D. Oumansky

With the invention of "murder vans," German technical experts producing machines for the destruction of human beings have recorded some of the most disgraceful pages in the history of their country. Here is evidence of this "invention," provided by the Hitlerites themselves.

War prisoner Staff Corporal Oscar Moisen, 253rd Artillery Regiment, 253rd Infantry Division, made the following statement: "I chanced to see one model of this 'technical achievement' in Smolensk in April, 1943. This big metal car without windows and only a sliding door in the rear was standing in the outskirts of the city. Twenty people, including women, were shoved inside and the door hermetically closed. The car was driven by an SS chauffeur and his assistant. The exhaust gas was not permitted to escape, but circulated inside the car. Thus all 20 innocent citizens, ignorant of their frightful fate, died from asphyxiation.

"'Once around the town, and my passengers will pass out,' the driver told me. Those were his very words. When the car returned from its round trip, the doors opened automatically and all 20 bodies were dumped in a pile and then covered with earth."

Corporal Arthur Schrantz, radio operator, serving in a Transport Squadron of the Fourth Air Corps, spoke of another German technical novelty in annihilating peaceful citizens. "Local inhabitants, including children, were driven out of town, forced to line up in a long row and grasp a wire. They were instantly killed when the current was turned on. One little girl didn't take hold of the wire and tried to run away, but she was shot."

German officers find pleasure in the very process of tormenting and destroying people. According to Corporal Franz Veskalinies, Company Eight, 336th Infantry Regiment, 161st Infantry Division, his commander Lieutenant Zigrist forced six peaceful civilians to their knees in a square which they had just finished sweeping. He then took a horsewhip and in the presence of Senior Lieutenant Rode, regimental aide-de-camp, beat the kneeling victims. Lieutenant Zigrist then ordered them to be taken away and shot.

Corporal Stefan Walter, Company Six, 274th Infantry Regiment, 94th Infantry Division, stated: "Some of our sappers caught a young Jew on a narrow gauge track near Lvov, undressed him and striking him with a horsewhip and sticks drove him into a stream. When he came out they continued beating him until he lost consciousness. When he came to he was beaten up and thrown into the water. This went on until his body was a bloody mass."

War prisoner Herman Ulrich, Reconnaissance Battalion, 183rd Infantry Regiment, 69th Infantry Division, spoke of one non-com of a Field Police Regiment who derived particular pleasure in dragging out the torture of his victims. Wounding a Russian in the hamlet of Opukhliki, he ordered two German soldiers to drag the wounded man by his legs, face down, for about 500 meters, and then finish him with a bullet in the brain."

Twenty-year old Captain Fox, commander of the Third Battalion, 185th Infantry Regiment, was ordered to "comb" the woods and villages in the vicinity of Vitebsk and pick up the trail of guerrillas operating in that area. But the guerrillas were not to be found. Fox gave vent to his rage by herding 20 innocent aged people together and ordering them to be shot. According to a statement by Gerald Kniss, Staff Interpreter, 185th Infantry Regiment, Captain Fox summoned Corporal Kramer of Company 11, who shot the victims with his tommy gun. Shortly afterward Kramer was promoted to a higher rank.

The Germans are confident they will not be held responsible for their crimes. According to Corporal Franz Vitmodler, First Battalion, 597th Infantry Regiment, 327th Infantry Division, men and officers of this German battalion organized a real slaughtering party in Semyonovo village in Seim. The ring-leaders of this bloody massacre of unarmed rural inhabitants were company commander Lieutenant Bodauer and his subordinates Kolb, Meteger, Tetick and Spihalm. They smashed house windows with their riflebutts and threw hand grenades into rooms where many women and children were hiding. The Germans continued to fire until not a single sound was heard in the buildings. They passed on to other houses and killed the tenants, not sparing old people and invalids.

For this "heroic" deed Lieutenant Bodauer and his accomplices were decorated by the Nazi command with iron crosses, first and second class. This fact proves that the wanton crimes committed by German officers and soldiers are not "accidental" crimes of individual persons, but are carried out as a system.

Order of Suvorov to General Tolbukhin

The Soviet Government has awarded the Order of Suvorov to Army General Fedor I. Tolbukhin, for skilful and courageous direction of combat operations and for successes achieved as a result of these operations in fighting the German-fascist invaders.



A street in Belgorod after the rout of the Germans

RESTORATION OF STATE FARMS

By B. Balyasny

Assistant People's Commissar of State Farms of the USSR

The author, an agronomist, was formerly Director of the Kuban State Experimental Farm in the Krasnoyarsk Region. Like hundreds of other enterprises, this farm was leveled to the earth by the Germans. Under Balyasny's leadership tens of thousands of people are now working to restore the devastated districts.

In the Ukraine, in the Zaporozhye District, there was once a State farm known as the Akkerman. The farm was efficient but small, and was not well known even in its own district. In 1930 the Akkerman farm became the talk of the Ukraine when one of its cows set a phenomenal record for milk-giving.

The offspring of the record breaker were exceptionally good, and the farm became an important cattle-breeding enterprise and workers' settlement. Akkerman grew into a nice little town with comfortable dwellings, a club, restaurant and children's institutions. The newly built power station supplied electricity and radio power and put the people in touch with the world.

Akkerman is now in ruins. Its devastation began the moment the Germans arrived. The two-footed hogs first devoured the pigs, then turned their attention to the cattle. Milking was too complicated a process for them; they made short work of the offspring of the record-breaking cow, and soon only hoofs and horns remained.

When the Red Army drove the invaders from Ukrainian soil the savages reduced the town to rubble. All important structures, including dwelling houses, were blown up. Two power stations, the water-pump, three cowsheds for 500 cattle, 3 silo fillers, the repair shops, the stable, the dairy and all cultural institutions of the town were destroyed. The barbarians did not even spare the park or the fruit garden, which they cut down to the roots.

Was all this mere chance? Nazi activities on all other State farms refute the idea, proving it was not an accident, but planned destruction. Hundreds of miles from the Molochnaya River, on the banks of the raging Terek, the German bandits did the same thing. At the Stalin State farm, troops of the tank "theoretician" Guderian burned down 13 cultural buildings and stores and 28 dwelling houses, and blew up the granary, two vegetable storehouses, five cattlesheds and the stables and poultry coops.

Near Mozdok the Germans similarly destroyed the State farm. At the Krep sheep-raising State farm in the Stalingrad Region they ruled 101 days, and in that period laid waste the well-equipped farm, demolished the schools, clubs and hospitals and destroyed all machinery, motors, tractors and agricultural implements. The theater, dozens of dwelling houses, 20 farm buildings and 47 cattlesheds were burned down.

To make restoration more difficult the criminals

filled all the 34 wells with sand. That was also part of their plan. At the Piatiletka State hog farm in the Kursk Region, from which the Red Army dislodged the Hitlerites in 1943, the wells were treated similarly.

The picture is the same wherever the 20th Century barbarians set foot. Before the invasion of the broad expanses of the Don, Kuban, Volga and Ukraine, the State farms in those regions raised hundreds of thousands of head of cattle and millions of sheep and hogs; grain was cultivated over an area of 2,200,000 hectares, vegetables were grown, and fruit and grapes. All was destroyed as if by a cyclone.

What are we doing to repair the damage? Of course, the lives of human beings cannot be restored, but the economy can. However, this is not easy; everything has to be built anew. At the Krep State farm, liberated November 25, 1942, work began with the restoration of wells. In 12 months, 49 buildings have been rebuilt or repaired, a brick-making factory set up, and a bakery, some 20 dwelling houses, public baths, a smithy, a club, and flour mills erected.

Before the invasion this farm cultivated more than 7,000 hectares of soil yearly, and cut tens of thousands of tons of hay in the steppes for sheep. In 1943, 1,060 hectares of grain, 1,872 hectares of provender and 69 hectares of technical and vegetable cultures were grown, and grass was cut from an area of 5,660 hectares. In the autumn 820 hectares of winter corn were planted and 1,905 hectares plowed.

Cattle, machines and other implements had to be brought from State farms located in the deep rear.

That was not an easy matter, as railways and other means of transportation were busy supplying needs of the front. But the difficulty was overcome, and 226 liberated State farms received several thousand tractors, combines, trucks, sowers and other implements from Siberia. Thousands of head of evacuated cattle have been returned to liberated districts, among them many pedigreed cattle. The State farms in four regions of the Ukraine will receive 16,400 head of cattle, 1,700 hogs, 21,000 sheep and 6,100 horses, including 2,000 pedigreed horses.

Industries are also rendering valuable assistance, supplying us with spare tractor parts, boots and clothing for workers and office employees, equipment for workshops, nails, iron, window glass and other building materials. Sectors in forests have been allotted to State farms to provide timber. Nor are funds lacking. Workers on the State farms are doing their utmost to hasten restoration. At the Piatiletka State farm they assembled four tractor plows, five sowing machines, 25 harrows and odd parts. Had they not done this, the farm would have been unable to plow or sow the fields. The farmers are now setting up a water-pump and cowsheds with their own resources.

We are very grateful for the aid sent from the United States. Last year State farms in the Stalin-grad Region received three tons of onion and four and one-half tons of carrot and turnip seed from across the ocean.

By June 1 collective farmers of the Ukraine had accomplished 95 per cent of their spring sowing plan. In the Dniepropetrovsk Region sowing exceeded the plan by 107,000 hectares, and in the Zaporozhye Region by 41,000 hectares.

PULKOVO OBSERVATORY TO BE REBUILT

By A. Pobedonostsev

As a former defender of Pulkovo Heights, I was particularly happy to learn that the Government had recently requested the Academy of Sciences of the USSR to draw up by November 1 of this year a project for the rehabilitation of the Pulkovo State Astronomical Observatory.

The Red Army and the popular volunteer force raised by the people of Leningrad stopped the German offensive on Leningrad at Pulkovo Heights in September, 1941. The Germans then began a methodical daily artillery and mortar shelling of Pulkovo Hill and the Observatory in particular, although they knew our troops were not there, but on the slopes of the hill. The enemy purposely destroyed this world-renowned treasure-house of astronomical science.

The Observatory's most valuable instruments and scientific works were evacuated in good time, but its

priceless library still remained in the building stored in the basement. Situated on the hilltop, the building was an excellent target, and from day to day and week to week the Germans pounded at it from the ground and air. During the first three weeks of fierce fighting near Pulkovo they fired tens of thousands of shells and mortars at the Heights.

The Army Command of the Pulkovo sector decided that the library must be evacuated. The task was difficult, almost impossible, but in the middle of October, 1941, under incessant German artillery fire, trucks pulled up at Pulkovo, and in a short time all remaining books were removed.

Only a mass of ruins now remains of the Observatory which for more than a century beautified Pulkovo Hill. But the Soviet people will raise a new and still more majestic Observatory which will again carry on work for the good of mankind.

Non-Russian Schools in Russian SFSR

The following is based on an interview with M. Bakeyev, Director of the Department of Curricula for Non-Russian Schools of the People's Commissariat of Education of the Russian SFSR.

The development and planning of instruction for non-Russian children in grade schools are of great importance for the cultural development of the numerous non-Russian nationalities of the Soviet Union. There are more than 12,000 non-Russian schools for 43 nationalities living in the autonomous republics of the Russian SFSR. Every autonomous republic has schools in its native tongue as well as in the language of the given republic.

In 1944 there were 3,610 schools in the Tatar Autonomous Republic, of which 1,452 were Russian, 1,755 Tatar, 154 Chuvash, 32 Udmurt, 21 Mari and 21 Morodovian, while 175 were mixed. These figures do not account, however, for the total number of schools in these languages in the Russian SFSR as a whole. For example, the total of Tatar schools in the Russian SFSR is 5,500, of which, as stated, 3,610 are in Tataria. There are 1,280 Chuvash schools in Chuvashia, but the total number of Chuvash schools in the Russian SFSR is 2,000.

After being graduated from the non-Russian schools, the pupils are fully qualified to enter higher institutes. Of the 150 pupils who completed the Tatar secondary school in Kazan, 135 were admitted to universities and institutes.

The Commissariat of Education attaches great importance to the training of teachers for non-Russian schools. There are 19,000 students studying at 90 specialized teachers' training schools, and 100,000 students in 20 specialized pedagogical institutes. The greater part of these undergraduates are women. In addition there are special courses for teachers. This year more than 2,000 students are enrolled in these courses in 10 autonomous republics.

Great attention is paid to the publication of textbooks in the languages of the various non-Russian nationalities. In 1944, 363 textbooks in editions totaling three million copies will be published in the various languages for the elementary grades, and 289 textbooks in nearly two million copies for the higher grades. In addition, literature for children and handbooks of instruction for teachers will be published.

Research institutes studying the problem of teaching the languages, literature and history of the various peoples are functioning in all autonomous republics of the Russian SFSR. Since the war began, the research institute in Bashkiria has pub-

lished a number of important treatises on the orthography, grammar and lexicography of the Bashkir language. The publication of a Bashkir textbook for teachers' training schools, and a large Bashkir dictionary, is another important wartime achievement.

N. Bertzgaev, a young scientist from Buryat-Mongolia, was the first scholar in the history of his people to write a paper on the lexicology of the Buryat-



Pupils of the Secondary School of the Novaya Zhizn Collective Farm

Mongol language. In the latter part of 1943 work was completed on a comprehensive dictionary of the Buryat-Mongolian language.

The Tatar Language, Literature and History Research Institute has prepared for publication the works of Abdulla Tukai and Galiyasgar Kamal, outstanding Tatar writers, and the first volumes are already off the press. The Institute is also doing important work in the study of the scientific grammar of the Tatar language.

Village Reading Rooms

By Y. Sotnik

Nearly every village in the Soviet Union has a reading room. It is not merely a place where the collective farmer can read the newspaper, a magazine or a book. Often it is the center of the cultural life of the locality.

I recently spent a month at Tsrn, an Ossetian settlement in the North Caucasus, and the reading room there is typical of those to be found almost anywhere in the USSR. It is about 15 by 27 feet and in the center is a long table with chairs on either side. The walls are lined with books, posters and showcases.

The director is Liza Khetinova, a very energetic Ossetian girl. She starts her day's work at six in the morning. She doesn't have to start so early, but the newspapers do not arrive until the evening, and the farmers are anxious to hear the latest news from the front. So early each morning Liza rings up the radio relay station at the nearest town, and takes down the Soviet communique and any other big news of the day. These reports are at once posted on the bulletin board.

The schoolteachers, the agronomist, the physician and the senior schoolchildren are Liza's enthusiastic collaborators. They help to organize amateur art circles, lectures, programs and arrange exhibits for the showcases. These showcases are enormously popular. Photographs, drawings, diagrams and press clippings are assembled, relating to some aspect of the economic, political and cultural life of the country,

or to international relations, or to the progress of the war.

Lessons in the village school finish at one in the afternoon, and the reading room is invaded by children. The dramatic circle begins rehearsals. True, the school has a hall with a stage, but it has become the custom for all preparatory work on dramatic productions to be done in the reading room.

In the evening collective farmers of all ages, men and women, crowd the hall to hear lectures by members of the local intelligentsia. Sometimes the agronomist lectures on agriculture, or the teacher discusses astronomy, or the physician deals with nutrition. Sometimes specialists are invited from nearby towns to lecture on particular subjects.

On evenings when there are no lectures, Liza organizes readings of literary works. Usually the reading is followed by a keen discussion. The room is open until 11 P. M. The farmers read magazines or newspapers, some play chess or other games. Schoolchildren often do their homework in the reading room.

While Liza issues books for borrowers to take home, her assistant is on duty at the reference table. She accepts written questions on all sorts of subjects. On the following day, voluntary workers set about finding the answers. The physician, the teacher or the agronomist may be able to help. If the questions are too difficult, Liza refers them to specialists qualified to deal with them.

DICKENS ON THE PRUT

By Evgeny Krieger

As I was waiting for Major Harum Bogatyryov, Hero of the Soviet Union, I noticed a copy of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* lying on the bed. The book-mark indicated it wasn't there as an ornament.

As I was turning the pages the Major entered the hut. He was born in the North Caucasus, in the small mountainous country of Karachai. In his youth—he is about 40 now—he broke horses. Later he studied at a technical college near Moscow and became a chemist. Now he is commanding a tank unit in the Russian offensive.

Major Bogatyryov specializes in night tank raids behind the German lines. Even at the height of their success the Germans never properly mastered the tactics of such raids.

Bogatyryov and his tankmen cut their way boldly through the enemy's front. They arrange their guns hedgehog fashion throughout the column. This fiery hedgehog rampages through the enemy rear.

He has jumped out of burning tanks, bleeding, his clothes on fire, only to take his seat in another tank and continue to attack. He has been buried by German bombs. He has climbed out of pits filled with dead men. He has fought on foot with the pandemonium of armored battle around him.

He has experienced everything that man can experience in war and remain alive. But his nerves are in order, and if he gets a free evening he spends it reading Dickens.

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June 6—1944

JUN 22 1944

By Ilya Ehrenburg

June 6, 1944 will be referred to in textbooks as a momentous date. The troops of our Allies landed on the coast of the Channel. We hear peals of thunder, as it were, and in them we distinguish the steps of history. I feel like exclaiming: Friends, what days we live in!

Here they are, before our eyes, those unforgettable dates: February 2, 1943—the victory at Stalin-

grad; May 7, 1943—the victory in Tunisia; July 12, 1943—the beginning of the Red Army's great offensive; November 6, 1943—Kiev; April 2, 1944—the Red Army in Rumania.

Now another date has been added—June 6, 1944, when the gigantic battle began on the sandy coast of Normandy.

We said so many times, "If only . . ." We heard



Soviet fighter pilots tensely watch a furious air combat with the enemy. By the style of fighting they know which of their comrades are taking part in the battle

so many times, "On the eve of decisive battles . . ." How good that is all in the past! How good that the decisive battles have begun! We will forget the subjunctive mood. We no longer have to use verbs in the future tense. What we waited for has come to pass: the attack on Germany from the West has begun.

On this bright day the soldiers of the Red Army recall with pride the bitter days of the past. When Hitler attacked us, the German army was the strongest in the world. The Germans then feared no attacks from the West. In those days the Channel meant Dunkirk to them. For three years we fought against Hitler's best divisions. We have experienced everything—grief, the death of friends, homes reduced to ashes.

Our guns, too, tore a gap in the Atlantic Wall, for in the course of three long years we have been destroying the Germans, their generals, their lieutenants, their Fritzes, their Tigers and Messerschmitts, their faith in victory. Russia's blood has corroded the stones of the German fortresses.

★ ★ ★

A flat sandy shore. Once there were hotels and villas. Parisians basked in the sun on peaceful beaches . . . At ebb-tide the ocean recedes very far. At flood-tide it furiously rushes in. And flood-tide has begun: early one morning thousands of vessels reached the French coast . . .

The Germans asserted day in and day out, "The Atlantic Wall is impregnable." Perhaps they thought they could rear a wall of boastful words, check the Allies with the forces of radio General Dietmar? To be sure, they fortified the coast. They knew the Allies would launch an offensive. The Germans prepared well. But General Eisenhower hit the nail on the head when he said: This is not 1940. The Atlantic Wall has gone the way of other walls. Once again the wisdom of courage has been proved: it surmounts all walls and breaks through all lines.

I greet the soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Expeditionary Corps. The heroes of Stalingrad and the Dnieper are proud of their friends-in-arms. The war has crossed the Channel and the Germans in Germany already feel its hot breath. The dawn of June 6 was not an easy one for many. Weavers from Manchester, students from Oxford, metal workers from Detroit, clerks from New York, farmers from Manitoba and trappers from Canada—landed on the battleground. They came from afar to put an end to fascist tyranny.

The soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Soviet Union know well enough what war means. They

have studied its color and odor. They know what a night before an attack is like. Russia's seasoned soldiers greet their comrades-in-arms sincerely, as soldiers, from the depths of their souls.

Behind the German lines Allied airborne troops have landed. Behind the German lines is the entire French nation. Verdant Normandy has become a battlefield. But France is not only a theater of operations. France is an indomitable nation. Frenchmen have waited for these days for four years, and now Rundstedt and Rommel will get a taste of France's wrath. Historians describing the behavior of Frenchmen in battle have often spoken of "furia Francese." The retreating Germans will now have to verify this testimony to the chroniclers of themselves.

The stalking of the beast has begun. At last he is in the ring. The Germans have talked a great deal about encirclement. Now it is here, a huge "kettle." In it Germany will boil, as the sinners in the cauldron of brimstone.

In June, 1942 the newspaper *Das Reich* wrote: "Of course a war on two fronts would be ruinous for Germany, but therein consists the Fuehrer's perspicacity, that he has foreseen the situation. By the time the Anglo-Saxons are ready for operations Russia will have been eliminated from the picture. Thus we will never have to fight on two fronts." The "perspicacious" Fuehrer turned out to be a miserable blind man. Russia holds forward positions. The Red Army is in Rumania and has never been so strong as on the threshold of this fateful summer.

The Germans love everything "colossal." They are stirred by arithmetic. Let them ponder the figures: 4,000 vessels, 11,000 aircraft. Now they will have to fight on several fronts. How long can Hitler's Fritzes and Tigers and nerves last him?

When I wrote in the autumn of 1941, "Carthage ought to be utterly destroyed," it might have appeared as a challenge to fate. Today even the German nincompoop knows that Carthage will be utterly destroyed and that we will be in Berlin.

We often say, "The cup is brimming over." Yes, the cup of our grief and Europe's grief is brimming over. For three years the enemy has been tormenting our land. For three years we have been giving our dear ones and our blood for the sake of victory. The time has come to finish the Germans. Our tanks are impatient to get to the streets of Berlin. Our eyes fly westward. The Germans have trampled our land long enough!

Soon Russian and Anglo-American troops will march over hated Germany. Anger and hope expand our hearts. Here she is before our eyes; our sister our love—Victory!

The Battle of France

Normandy is a land of rich pastures, apple trees and cider, a land of fishermen and navigators, seat of William the Conqueror, birthplace of Maeshherbes and Corneille, Flaubert and Maupassant. The eyes of the world are now focused upon it.

Normandy is the name of an air unit which is now fighting on our front. Young Marcel LeFevre was a favorite among the pilots. He was really born in Normandy and was merry and stubborn, like every typical son of Normandy. He fought in our skies for the land of France. He shot down 11 enemy aircraft. He loved Normandy passionately, and once in a Russian forest he told me about the beauty of her meadows and orchards. Marcel LeFevre was killed June 5, just a few hours before the liberation of Normandy began. Fate can be cruel. But does a hero die? Does he not live on in the hearts of the people? Is not LeFevre's heroic death associated with the battle of Normandy?

On June 6 General de Gaulle, in a radio message to his fellow countrymen, said: "The battle in France has begun and it is France's battle." The people who do not know France may perhaps wonder what the people of France will do. But those who know the French have no need to ask.

On the African desert, the sands and the lions could look on with indifference at the changing fortunes of the adversaries. But in France there is a people: they have been awaiting this day for four years. On June 10, 1940 a black fog enveloped Paris: it was the smoke of burning oil from the reservoirs in Rouen. The Germans had crossed the Seine at the left of Paris. Not a single Frenchman has forgotten that black day. Now the hour of retribution has come and Frenchmen do not look on—they fight.

French airborne troops have left England for the soil of France. They are not simply making an invasion; they are returning home. They say to Frenchmen, "We have come here with our Allies. We have come to restore France to the French." A splendid role is the role of these scouts. But even loftier are the efforts of those French patriots who are aiding the Allies deep in the German rear. A Reuters war correspondent stated that communications used by Rommel to move up his troops have been wrecked not only by aerial bombings, but also by the action of the francs-tireurs. He reports some details: railway junctions are jammed; trains are blown up by Frenchmen; the francs-tireurs have blown up dams and thus put France's waterway system out of commission, and lastly a large number of fuel dumps have been set alight by patriots. German troops are scattered all over France; Rommel did not know where the Allies would begin the at-

tack. Now Rommel has to transfer his divisions, and here his plans are being modified by the French patriots. Thus the battle in France is becoming France's battle.

Eisenhower's proclamation to the effect that those who betrayed their country by collaborating with the enemy would be removed will not leave the French indifferent. Perhaps the patriots will prefer not to remove the traitors, but to put them out of the way; that would be in the French tradition. The traitors are well aware of what awaits them. Only very recently they tried to palm themselves off as neutrals. But Marcel Deat, when he learned of the invasion, declared that he was all for victory for the Germans. We should think so—that traitor wants to hang others, not to hang himself. But the lamp-posts of France are hungering for him, as they are hungering for Laval, Doriot, Darmand and all collaborators of the boches. The senile marshal has been incautious enough to remove himself from Vichy to Rambouillet. From his new residence to Normandy is only 75 kilometers.

We are delighted with the gallantry of our Allies, the English, Canadians and Americans. They have set firm foot on French soil, and they will march through the land. A soldier is not content with little things. They say there is a marshal's baton in every soldier's knapsack. That is true, as it is also true that having entered Bayeux, the soldier is not thinking only of Caen, but also of Paris; and having seen outraged Paris he will march on until he gets to Berlin. Soldiers are not diplomats—soldiers know what human blood means and they are in a hurry. That is why I read with such emotion and joy the names of the first towns liberated by the Allies: Bayeux, Formigny, Isigny, St. Mere-Eglise. Very few knew of these wonderful towns. But they will be followed by others with more resounding names. After the first thunder of June will come the purifying storms of July and August.

In the coming battles France will occupy a fitting place. She will break her chains. She will smash the bars. She will win arms. Her outraged conscience will not be appeased by the exploits of others. She herself is thirsting for battle. Let us remember Corsica . . . The liberation of France was begun not only by soldiers of the Expeditionary Corps, but also by the francs-tireurs who attacked the invaders' communications.

France is rising. The cocks are crowing on her roof tops. The drums of the soldiers of 1792 are beating. The hero of Verdun, the unknown soldier, has risen from the grave and is calling to the living, "On to the assault, the grim assault, the assault of death, of the German, of the boche—for the sake of country and liberty, for the sake of beloved France!" And France is answering the call.

AMERICAN FLIERS AT A SOVIET BASE

By Lieutenant Colonel N. Denisov

Gradually gathering speed, a big four-engined plane moves down the runway. A few seconds later another silvery machine sweeps past, and then the third, fifth, eleventh and thirtieth . . . These are the famous Flying Fortresses which are launching mass air attacks over various cities in fascist Germany and its vassal states. Having made the flight from Italy and treated the enemy to a good portion of bombs on the way, American fliers are now operating from new bases on Soviet territory.

A short time after the take-off the aircraft formed up. This time Colonel Charles V. Lawrence, 43-year-old Wing Commander, chose the order of formation of the several squadrons, with the planes flying in groups of seven. Piloting a plane and heading one of the leading groups, he radioed the crews to set off on the course to their objectives.

Colonel Lawrence has several dozen long-distance battle missions to his credit. Together with Captain Jones, navigator, and First Lieutenant Collins, bombardier, the Colonel has taken part in many operations against military and industrial objectives in Germany, occupied France, Rumania and Italy.

Climbing to an altitude of several thousand feet the Flying Fortresses disappeared from view. Some time later the ground crews in the airdromes of the long-range American fighters go into action. The big four-blade propellers of the squat Mustangs are quickly turned and the even hum of many engines fills the air. The officer on duty calls up to the starting point one flight of Mustangs after another. A jeep with a special flag moves in front of each plane to show the way. This method of take-off brings murmurs of approval from the Soviet fliers present.

Then an order is flashed over the radio from the central command post, and the Mustangs quickly disappear from view.

Since the flight of the heavy bombers through the frontal zone is now secured by Soviet air patrols, the American command has resorted to a "catch up" method of escorting. The Flying Fortresses climb to a great height and cross the front line unescorted. They then fly through the so-called "tactical surprise zone," a zone which the bomber can negotiate before the enemy fighters have time to take off, gather height and make ready for the attack. At some prearranged point in this zone the Mustangs must catch up with the bombers. This method first of all enables the fighters to save much-needed fuel because they take off later than the Flying Fortresses. Second, it confuses the enemy because his observation posts first see only Flying Fortresses

and report to the anti-aircraft system accordingly. The appearance of the Mustangs is a surprise to the enemy fighters, who had expected to attack unescorted Flying Fortresses.

During one of the raids carried out by American aircraft from Soviet bases, a group of Mustangs led by Lieutenant Colonel Chester L. Sluder caught up with the Flying Fortresses as they were about to be attacked by Messerschmitts. The Mustangs immediately cut off the Germans and in a few moments downed several enemy fighters. Captain Hogg accounted for two Messerschmitts in a running fight and Lieutenant Colonel Sluder knocked out one.

Meanwhile several German fighters managed to break through to the Flying Fortresses. They tried to attack the group led by Flight Officer Lawer. With the bombers flying in close formation the American gunners opened concentrated fire from numerous heavy caliber machine guns. The German fighters fell back with losses and made no more attempts to attack.

To return to the battle mission performed today—within a few hours the central command post received a message from the Wing Commander saying the target had been hit and the Fortresses were returning. They were to be met and escorted to the base by Soviet fighters. At the same time several Lightnings also took off on a reconnaissance flight over the objectives that had just been attacked.

Finally the Flying Fortresses and Mustangs appear over the airdrome. While the heavy bombers land one after another and taxi off, the Mustangs patrol above the field. Several of them, following the tradition of American airmen, separate themselves from the group and do air stunts. These are the pilots who shot down German planes today. Flying in trim formation the aircraft do barrel rolls. The ground crew men watching the Mustangs count the rolls. The tension increases with each revolution. When the demonstration comes to an end the Americans on the ground shout "O.K.!" applaud and toss up their caps.

The fliers walk off to get a rest while staff officers check up on the results of the raid. Soon the photographic laboratory sends up the first pictures of the objective. All targets are covered with thick clouds of smoke. But how much damage has really been done. This information is brought back by the Lightnings which photographed the objective after the smoke has settled. The pictures show big bomb craters and fires raging in the target area.

"O.K.," says one of the Soviet flying officers of the base to the Wing Commander.

ORGANIZATION OF CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IN LIBERATED TERRITORIES

By N. Ruzin

The following article appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 11:

The moment is approaching when, in accordance with the decisions adopted in Teheran, simultaneous crushing blows will be launched by the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition against Hitlerite Germany from the East, West and South. The Red Army and the Armies of our Allies will enter the territories of the European countries enslaved by the Hitlerites and the territory of Germany herself.

One of the important problems that will have to be dealt with in the course of this great liberation campaign is that of the organization of civil administration in the territories freed from Hitlerite tyranny.

It is obvious that the approach to this problem cannot be the same in all liberated territories. On the one hand, there are the territories of the Hitler-enslaved democratic countries such as Czechoslovakia, Norway, Belgium, the Low Countries, etc. Recently the Governments of these countries, who are taking an active part in the struggle against the Germans, concluded agreements with the Governments of those great powers whose troops will enter their territories in the course of military operations. These agreements stipulate that as soon as the military situation permits it, the Governments of the respective countries will assume full responsibility for their civil administration in accordance with their constitutions. Only for the period of hostilities is the highest authority in the direction of civil administration to reside with the Allied Commander-in-Chief.

On the other hand, there are the territories of Germany's satellites, Rumania, Hungary, Finland and Bulgaria. The administration established on their territories will largely depend on the circumstances in which the respective states get out of the war, on whether the government or the people of one or the other of these countries discontinues the ruinous collaboration with Germany in good time and takes the road indicated in the declaration of the Governments of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States addressed to the satellites of Hitlerite Germany, or whether they continue to help Germany until Hitler's entire robber bloc is smashed in battle.

Lastly, there is the territory of Germany herself.

It would, therefore, be premature to anticipate what system of civil administration will be established in any of these countries after the German-

fascist bands and their servitors are expelled from them by the forces of the anti-Hitler coalition. It is, however, quite timely to try to sum up some of the results of the experiences already available in this sphere. The experience of the organization of the Anglo-American Civil Administration in the liberated sections of Italy (formerly called AMGOT and now known as AMG) is undoubtedly of great interest in this respect. The study of this experiment will show what has proved useful in it and what its defects are as revealed in practice.

How was this Administration set up? The general scheme and instructions concerning all the main branches of the Administration had been elaborated upon before the landing of Allied troops in Sicily. The especially selected personnel had been trained and many of them had gone through a special course set up in a school for this purpose.

Men of wide political and administrative experience were appointed to responsible posts. We need but mention General MacFarlane, the present head of the Allied Civil Government machinery in Italy, who in 1941 headed the British Military Mission in the USSR and later held the post of Governor of Gibraltar; Lord Stansgate, the present director of the Administrative Department of the Central Civil Government machinery in Italy, for many years Laborite member of Parliament; and Colonel Poletti, in charge of the Regional Government in Naples and the Province of Naples, a noted American lawyer and at one time Governor *pro tem* of the State of New York.

The medium and lower personnel is made up of men of a variety of professions: physicians, engineers, lawyers, transport experts, economists, students of antiquity, art scholars, geologists, owners and managers of various industrial enterprises, etc. Many of them have had many years experience in administrative work in colonies. Just before landing, all these men received their appointments and were attached to troop formations.

The structure of AMG has been different in areas where hostilities were in progress and behind the lines. The former AMG workers have been attached to headquarters of the troop commanders and are subordinate to these commanders. Behind the lines, AMG is an independent organization based on the territorial principle, in the main corresponding to administrative divisions of the country, and is subordinate to the Chief Officer for Civil Affairs or the head of AMG. The latter is subordinate directly

to General Alexander, who exercises the highest military and civil authority in Italy—he is Commander of the Allied Forces operating in Italy, and at the same time is the Military Governor of occupied territory.

The main purpose of AMG has been to relieve the Command and Armed Forces of the Allies in general from all duties of an administrative nature, and as speedily as possible to create conditions insuring that the needs of the Army are taken proper care of—to maintain order behind the lines, make local resources (housing, food supplies, etc.) available for the Army, organize transportation and work in the vital industries, etc.

The AMG officers landed as soon as the vanguard troops gained a foothold on the shore, followed their troops, established contact with the local Italian administration and enlisted the latter's services for the accomplishment of the above-named tasks. The principle was to make the utmost possible use of available local forces. While AMG officers dissolved the fascist organizations (the fascist party and fascist youth organizations), they often sought to use all levers of the Italian administrative machine, including the police (the so-called Carabinieri), for the purpose of carrying out the tasks before them.

It should be admitted that those first and most urgent tasks were in the main carried out by the AMG. It managed to prevent serious disturbances and relatively quickly to restore structures needed for the Army and partly for the population, such as port installations, strategic roads, waterworks and power plants, and made the machinery of the Italian government which it found on the spot work along these lines.

But the AMG encountered serious difficulties when it tackled larger problems. When the Allied troops pushed ahead, it became necessary to restore normal life behind their lines. The local AMG organs were set up with departments corresponding to the main branches of administration: the Departments of Justice, Public Security, Health, Public Education, Industries and Supplies, etc.

All those departments performed their functions mainly through the corresponding organs of the Italian administrative machine. Some of the most odious figures were removed from that machine, but the vast majority of its personnel remained intact. Not even all the prefects who had held their posts under fascism were dismissed.

The AMG made no serious attempt to enlist the support of public opinion of the democratic masses of the Italian people. Officially, AMG was apolitical. The attitude its workers assumed with regard to the various political trends in Italy was ostensibly one of neutrality. That attitude was formally proclaimed on repeated occasions by persons of authority.

With this line as its starting point, the AMG began by banning all political activity on the part of the population. Only in January, 1944, under pressure of the Advisory Council on Italy did the Commander-in-Chief issue instructions permitting legal activity of political parties, except the fascist, though with certain restrictions and granting, within definite limits, freedom of speech, press and assembly. It is true that in some places, in Naples for example, digressions from the strict ban on political activity had been permitted prior to the issuance of these instructions, too; nevertheless, there was not sufficient scope for wide activity by the masses. That is why the AMG organs failed when they tackled tasks which could not be carried out without the active and organized cooperation of the masses. Thus, for example, AMG could not make landowners and rich peasants part with their hoarded supplies of grain, despite the number of rather drastic measures (searches, road patrols, criminal prosecution, etc.).

The AMG did not succeed in organizing the restoration of industry on a large scale with the exception of certain war plants and essential municipal services, or the repair of demolished dwellings, etc. Most AMG workers complained of the apathy and passivity of the Italian population, but they did not realize that they could not expect any activity from the masses unless political liberties were established and the principles of democracy enforced.

Another Allied organization—the Allied Control Commission—acted in Italy alongside the AMG. In four provinces of Apulia (Bari, Brindisi, Taranto and Lecce) no Allied civil administration was set up. These four provinces had been under the administration of the Badoglio government all the time, and the Allied Control Commission was set up to supervise the carrying out of armistice terms by that government. Unlike the AMG, it is not an administrative but a supervising body.

When attempts to restore more or less normal conditions of life behind the lines met with difficulties which could not be surmounted with the aid of the AMG, the Allied Command decided in January, 1944 to place all the rear areas of liberated Italy under the jurisdiction of the Italian government. In the course of the first half of February the Italian government took over all liberated territory with the exception of the front zone and adjoining provinces of Naples, Avellino, Benevento and Foggia.

This meant that in all this territory AMG activity was to discontinue. The local organs of the Italian administration which had functioned there all the time were henceforward to receive instructions not from the AMG but from the Italian government. The AMG bodies were preserved only in the front

zone and in the four above-mentioned provinces.

On the other hand it meant that the Allied Control Commission, which played an important part in the Allied machinery of civil administration in Italy, assumed still greater importance.

This shifting of the center of gravity from the AMG to the Allied Control Commission was fully in line with the desire to transfer the responsibility for civil administration from the Allied organs to the Italian government. It was not in line, however, either with the view that had taken root in Allied circles, according to which AMG was the main organ of the Allied apparatus in Italy, or with the actual distribution of forces which were concentrated in the AMG.

The Allied Command devised an original means of resolving this contradiction. It merged the central machinery of the AMG and the Allied Control Commission in one organ representing a sort of two-faced Janus. General MacFarlane became the head both of the AMG bodies which still continued to exist after the transfer of territory in southern Italy to the jurisdiction of the Italian government, and the actual director of the Allied Control Commission. All departments of his machine, each in its particular field, performed functions of administration in regard to organs of the AMG and functions of control in regard to the respective Italian ministries. Thus the Allied Control Commission (this name has been retained) acquired two faces: the face of an administrator turned northward toward the territory governed by AMG, and the face of a controller turned southward toward the territory under the jurisdiction of the Italian government.

Actually it means that each worker in this central apparatus must constantly shift from one role to another. For instance, the chief of any department of the Allied Control Commission goes through the mail and finds a paper which arrived from Naples. He handles this paper in his capacity of administrator. Below lies a telegram from Palermo. This he approaches from the standpoint of controller, etc.

We leave it to the psychologists to judge to what extent this is psychologically possible. But it is beyond any doubt that such duality is bound to cause very serious complications both from the political and practical point of view. A struggle between the two "natures" of the Allied Control Commission is inevitable, with the result that one is bound to swallow up the other. There is every reason to suppose that the more active and vigorous "administrative nature" will gain the upper hand and begin to manifest itself not only toward the north but toward the south as well, with the only difference that here the administration will be called control.

As long as the Italian government was made up

of officials who enjoyed no prestige among the large masses of the Italian population this position evoked no protests from that government. But as we know, the Italian government has been reorganized. Today this government consists of representatives of all anti-fascist trends and parties, beginning with the circles represented by Marshal Badoglio and ending with the Communists. With this government, which is much more active and enjoys greater prestige than the previous government, the Allied Control Commission will obviously have to establish other relations than those that existed between the "two-faced" Control Commission and the former Badoglio government. There are serious grounds for apprehension that the intertwining administrative and control functions in the Allied Control Commission, as a result of its fusion with the central apparatus of the AMG, may cause considerable difficulties in the establishment of such relations.

The British press lately carried a number of reports to the effect that in connection with the forthcoming invasion of Western Europe by Anglo-American troops, preparations are on foot at the headquarters of General Eisenhower to have the machinery of civil administration ready. Thus, for instance, the British Ministry of Foreign Information recently reported that a special department known as the "G-5" department had been set up in General Eisenhower's headquarters, and that its job will be to organize civil administration in territories liberated from the German invaders. This department is headed by Lieutenant General Grassett who participated in the war of 1914-18 and later served in the East, among other places in China.

According to a report from the Ministry of Information, officials of the department will be made up of big industrialists, college presidents, professors, governors, mayors, journalists, doctors, lawyers, etc. The personnel of this department has undergone special training.

The Ministry of Information emphasized that the activity of this apparatus will be essentially different from the activity of the AMG in Italy. Military control will be maintained only during the period it is required by military operations. As soon as the military situation permits, the administration will be transferred to local authorities.

As for German territory, "G-5" service will exercise full rule and control there and its methods will be those of command rather than those of consultation and agreement.

This report of the Ministry of Information seems to indicate that the Allied Command has taken into consideration the principal conclusion that is to be drawn from the experience of organization of civil administration in Italy. This conclusion consists of the following: The administration with the help of

officials of the foreign army on territory with a friendly population may cope successfully with the immediate tasks which have to be faced directly before the entry of foreign troops into a given territory—tasks of meeting the requirements of the advancing troops and taking care of the most urgent needs of the local population. As regards the wider and larger tasks of restoring more or less normal conditions of life in the liberated territory, they cannot be accomplished without the active participation of the local population. But such participation cannot be organized any other way than by setting up democratic organs of government and by enjoying the confidence and support of the population.

Some British newspapers, however, express doubts as to whether this main conclusion has really and properly been considered by the Allied Command.

The magazine *The Economist* in one of its May issues compares the communique on the agreement between Britain and the United States on the one hand, and Belgium, The Netherlands and Norway on the other, with the text of the Soviet-Czechoslovak agreement concerning the organization of civil administration on Czechoslovak territory after the Red Army enters that territory. The author of the article in *The Economist* points out that the agreement between the USSR and Czechoslovak Governments does not mention any technical or political activity which the Red Army is to engage in on Czech territory. Even in the zone of hostilities the Czech authorities are apparently to take over all functions of civil administration though under the jurisdic-

tion of the Soviet High Command.

In Western Europe it may be anticipated that a certain period of time will elapse between the landing of Allied troops and the creation of an effective local administration. During this period Allied officers will have to supervise the activity of the civil government bodies. General Eisenhower's Headquarters has a department for civil administration with its own personnel ("G-5" service).

The article goes on to say that the wave of enthusiasm which the appearance of the Allied troops will arouse among the populations of countries liberated by them will be stupendous, but that this wave may easily recede if there arises any fear that the British and Americans come to rule and intend to keep the people from administering their own affairs.

It stands to reason that after four to five years of intolerable oppression under the Nazi yoke the democratic nations of Europe will want to straighten their backs. All these peoples will crave real thoroughgoing democracy. At the same time there is no doubt that all elements in the German-enslaved countries who in the period of sway of the Hitlerites tended in one way or another, directly or indirectly, covertly or overtly, toward collaboration with them, will do everything they can to prevent the establishment of a genuinely democratic system in those countries. The future of Europe will to a large degree depend on what part the great powers, whose troops will liberate the enslaved countries of Europe from the German-fascist yoke, will take in the struggle between democratic and reactionary elements.

WORKERS' SUGGESTIONS IN SOVIET INDUSTRY

Numerous technical innovations and improvements suggested by rank and file workers are being applied at Soviet factories. In 1943 workers of the plants under the People's Commissariat of the medium machine-building industry submitted 15,000 inventions of which 6,000 have already been applied in practice and have saved 50,000,000 rubles.

In the first quarter of this year the application of workers' inventions at the Molotov automobile plant—one of the largest enterprises in the Soviet Union—ensured a saving of 17,000,000 rubles.

In order to encourage workers and inventors special consulting centers exist at all enterprises which arrange competitions as well as exhibitions of inventions, etc. Among the numerous inventions and suggestions of particular interest received by enterprises of the medium machine-building industry is one for the improvement of carburetors for tractors,

which results in a saving of fuel to the value of millions of rubles.

Tens of thousands of tons of steel have been saved through the use of a lathe invented by worker Svinoukhov, technician Manstarov and engineer Kubyshkin for the production of ballbearing rings.

The Government highly values the work of inventors and rationalizers; last year several machine-builders received Stalin prizes.

Volunteer Builders of Kursk

On the anniversary of the liberation of Kursk the inhabitants formed 1,500 building teams consisting of 27,000 workers, employees, housewives and secondary school students. In four months, working in off hours, the townspeople built 22 new homes, restored 606 houses, repaired 6,730 square meters of roads and planted 20,000 trees in the city streets.

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THREE YEARS OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

By Y. Viktorov

June is a month of memorable dates—memorable in different ways to different nations and countries, but all marked with the common seal of war.

In June, 1940, the jackboots of the triumphant, arrogant fascist barbarians were trampling upon betrayed France, which lay wounded and prostrate with horror. June, 1940 saw the humiliating armistice of Compiègne; June, 1940 saw Dunkirk. The hysterical corporal who had been elevated to the dignity of "Fuehrer" was preparing for his leap across the channel. He was restrained by the complexity and difficulty of the enterprise by water and the British fleet. But what restrained him most was fear of Russia. He decided to smash Russia first and to turn to the West via the East, thus striding not only across the channel, but also across the ocean.

The ignorant corporal fancied himself not only a great strategist but also a great diplomat and politician. He wanted to fool the Soviet people and catch the Soviet country unawares. On the fateful night of June 21, 1941 the Nazi hordes invaded the Soviet Union. The smoke of conflagrations filled the deep blue Ukrainian sky; the silence of Byelorussian forests was shattered by the rattling of Tommy guns; blood flowed from the wholesale tortures and massacres of women and children began. The "new order" strode eastward. The Fuehrer marched on Moscow.

But perfidy did not yield the expected results. The Soviet people were aware of the nature of the fascist

beast and had been preparing for the inevitable struggle. The thunderbolt was launched. Stalin issued the call. He was calm and confident, confident in the unity of the people and confident in the country's might. In answer to their leader's call, the

people rose up for the struggle of life and death. The Soviet people knew they were fighting a just cause in defense of their home, liberty and independence, in the cause of freedom-loving nations and the oppressed and enslaved peoples of Europe.

The Soviet people stood up to the terrific assault of the Nazi war machine and prepared to strike the retaliatory blow. That blow was struck at Moscow. The world was petrified with amazement. Hitler's "invincible" army ceased to be invincible. Europe began to recover from her prostration.

The enemy retired, but prepared to strike a fresh blow. He made his preparations carefully and thoroughly, mobilizing all his forces for it inasmuch as there was no war in the West.

Then came the summer of 1942, the Stalingrad summer. Having failed to take Moscow by a frontal assault, he decided to outflank it. He sped toward the Volga and

Stalingrad, designing to cut off the center of the country from its source of oil and grain, to surround the Capital and to bring Russia to her knees. That was the major objective, but something more than the capture of Moscow and the defeat of the Soviet Union was envisaged. One claw of the Nazi monster reached out to the Caucasus, another to



Drawing by B. Karpov

Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the
Armed Forces of the USSR, Marshal
Joseph V. Stalin

Egypt and the Near East. They were to come together beyond the Caucasian Mountains on the plains of Iran. This was the road to India and beyond.

The battle was joined. It was fought with unparalleled, unprecedented ferocity. The mighty millstones of Stalingrad ground the German hordes to powder. Stalin's city covered itself with unfading glory. The world was amazed at Stalingrad's staunchness; yet no one realized that this was something more than defense, that it was the source and fountain-head, the turn in the tide of the great



Radio photo

Marshal of Artillery, Nikolai Yakovlev

counter-offensive. Therein lay the genius in the plan of the leader whose name the heroic city bears.

The Germans' defeat in Stalingrad presaged the decline of the German army. Stalingrad marked the turning point, not only on the Soviet-German front, but in the whole course of the war. Its effects were immediately felt in Africa where Rommel fled, having lost his tanks, his soldiers and his laurels.

June, 1943. The German attempt to open a new offensive was nipped in the bud. The fascist beast was not fated to attack any more; the initiative had been definitely wrested from his hands. The unbroken Red Army offensive, lasting more than a year, characterized this phase of the war which brings us to the events of the day. The obstruction to the German offensive in Kursk crowned the failure of the German general staff's strategy. The forcing of the Dnieper, the Southern Bug and the Dniester by the Red Army, its approach to the frontiers of Czechoslovakia, and the transfer of hostilities to Rumanian territory, which marked the first breach of Hitler's notorious "European fortress," signified the collapse of the defensive strategy of the Nazi command.

Thus was revealed the utter defectiveness of German strategy which underestimated the strength and might of the Red Army, the Soviet country and the Soviet people.

Where are the armies which were hurled against the Soviet Union in June, 1941? They are no more. Hitler's first and finest soldiers, who have found "living space" beneath countless wooden crosses in Soviet soil have been replaced by ersatz Fritzes. The Germans are experiencing an acute shortage of reserves. They are forced to husband their resources, and are losing battle after battle, engagement after engagement, campaign after campaign.

We have been witnesses to the battle of Rome. Kesselring made the bluff of being able to stand up against the overwhelmingly superior forces of the Allies. With his German obtuseness, he still hoped that the moth-eaten myth of German invincibility would save him. But the Red Army has long ago shown that the Germans can be beaten. Kesselring sustained a terrific defeat and is now fleeing northwards.

June, 1944 was ushered in by the invasion of the Allies. The landing operation was planned and executed with brilliant skill, and the Allies are securely holding their bridgeheads. The Teheran decisions are being put into effect.

240th Anniversary of Kronstadt Fortress

In May, Baltic seamen marked the 240th anniversary of the founding of the first Russian naval fortress. For 240 years Kronstadt—main base of the Russian Baltic fleet—has vigilantly guarded the sea approaches to Leningrad. An exceptionally great part was played by the fortress in the defense of Petrograd in 1919 and in the defense of Leningrad during the great Patriotic War against the German invaders.

GUARDS UNITS OF THE RED ARMY

The Soviet Guards are picked troops that have distinguished themselves by their excellent training, discipline and courage.

The Red Army, which dates back to February 23, 1918, combines in itself the finest fighting qualities—staunchness, courage and valour. It accumulated vast combat experience in the past, which has been greatly enriched during the present Patriotic War. In the autumn of 1941 the finest Army units and groups, those which had covered themselves with glory in the fight against the German invaders by reason of their military exploits and those which had been exemplary in their organization, discipline and order, were formed into Guards units and groups. This practice has since been repeated many times.

Guards units and groups are presented Guards standards, and on May 21, 1942, the personnel of these formations was given special ranks and insignia.

Soviet Guardsmen are fighters of conspicuous bravery, ready to give up their lives for their people and country. Both officers and men of the Soviet Guards are models of discipline. Their organization and training, acquired in battle, are examples to others. In every battle they are outstanding for their initiative and resourcefulness, for the excellent use they make of their weapons and the perfect tactics they employ in their operations.

The gallantry of the Soviet Guards, who have again and again inflicted telling defeat upon the Nazi troops, inspires the whole Red Army to victory.

Here is an example of the heroic deeds of the Guardsmen during the defense of Moscow in the winter of 1941. Fifty enemy tanks were moving toward a narrow stretch of the front held by 28 Soviet Guardsmen belonging to the Panfilov Division, named for its intrepid commander who had fallen in the fighting near the Soviet Capital.

It may have seemed foolhardy for 28 men to oppose such an avalanche of steel. But these Soviet fighters, displaying a heroism which has rarely been recorded in world history, did not flinch and accepted battle. Their anti-tank rifles put tank after tank out of commission, while others were set on fire by their bottles of inflammable liquids.

The fascists were beside themselves with fury, and ever new enemy tanks kept creeping up to the Soviet line. The group of death-defying stalwarts was dwindling away, but none of those who remained alive thought of retreat. In the minds of each were deeply engraved the words of their political instructor, Klochkov: "Russia is great, but we have no place to retreat; behind us is Moscow."

The battle lasted for more than four hours. Eighteen mangled tanks lay sprawled motionless on the field of battle. The iron-clad fascist monsters were unable to break through. But all the 28 Panfilov men had paid with their lives for their heroic conduct. Soon after the last died the death of a hero, Soviet reinforcements reached the spot and hurled the enemy back.

On one of the heights controlling the approaches to Stalin-grad, 16 young Guardsmen commanded by Lieutenant Kochetkov repeated the gallant action of the Panfilov men. The last three of them to die pressed hand grenades to their breasts and flung themselves under oncoming tanks, thus barring the enemy's road to this particular height. This is how the Soviet Guardsmen fulfill their duty to their country.

After the most distinguished rifle divisions of the Red Army had received the title of Guards, it was bestowed upon the best motorized, tank, cavalry, artillery, air force and other units and groups, and also on exemplary crews of the Red Navy. Every arm of the service now has its Guards Units.



Insignia of the Guards Units of the Red Army

Awards for Construction of Third Line of Moscow Subway

For exemplary execution of the assignment of the State Defense Committee in the construction of a third line of the Moscow subway, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor to Metrostroï—the Moscow subway-building organization previously awarded the Order of Lenin. The Order of Lenin was conferred upon Stakhanovites of various trades, chiefs of sections and team leaders and engineers.

USSR NAVY IN THE PATRIOTIC WAR

By Rear Admiral A. Frolov

The three years of the Patriotic War of the Soviet Union against Hitlerite Germany have been years of severe reverses for the German-fascist troops. These enemy defeats were sustained at the hands of both the Red Army and Navy.

No trace remains of the boasting declarations so noisily made throughout the world by the German command in 1941-42. The ships of the Soviet Navy that had been destroyed on paper, and the submarines of the Soviet Fleet that had been sunk in Nazi inkwells came to life again and again and inflicted ever more telling blows upon the enemy.

Their attempts in the first months of the war to destroy the Soviet Fleet availed the Germans naught.

The Soviet Fleet grew stronger day by day. The Navy's principal task has been to shield the flanks of the Red Army from the enemy's landing parties and to strike the enemy's flanks, immediate rear and communications. Not once during the war has the German fleet been able to carry out even tactical landing operations, let alone large-scale operations. Not once were German ships able to harry the flanks of the Red Army. Two attempts (in 1941-42) to carry out tactical landing operations on the island of Ezel and later on the island of Sukho ended in failure. Soviet sailors and fliers sank more than 50 per cent of the enemy's landing ships, together with their troops and armaments.

Officers and men of the Soviet Fleet have learned much during the three years of war. The struggle against the strong and well-armed enemy cost the Soviet Fleet many sacrifices on land and sea.

Numerous Tasks of Soviet Navy

Great demands were made on the Fleet particularly during the first year of war. The men of the Soviet Navy were then called upon to foil the enemy's attempts to blockade Soviet ports, to protect the flanks of the Red Army, to strike the enemy at sea, to help the Red Army check the enemy's assaults and to defeat him on land. Active defense, raids on the enemy's bases, tactical and strategic landing operations and methodical patrolling of enemy communications enabled the Soviet Fleet to maintain the initiative in all battle areas at sea, and compelled the Germans to withdraw considerable forces, ships and aircraft from other areas to safeguard their flanks and communications.

Even in 1941 when Soviet submarines had just begun to patrol the Northern waters and had sunk only four transports, the commander of the German troops in Norway requested air reinforcements

to combat Soviet submarines. When Soviet submarines began to sink 10 to 15 transports a month the German staffs were greatly alarmed. They hurriedly drew strong aviation forces and numerous small sub-chasing craft to the North. Thousands of mines were floated by the enemy in the Northern waters to combat Soviet submarines. With strong escorts, the German convoys now moved only along the coast where they were shielded by shore batteries and aircraft. One or two transports were generally escorted by four to six warships and two to three planes. Enemy transports of special value were escorted by as many as 10 or more warships and four to six planes. Under these conditions Soviet submarines still continued to sink transports.

This year showed a considerable increase in enemy losses in the North. Soviet aircraft and motor torpedo boats are now cooperating with submarines patrolling the enemy's communications. Sea engagements under such conditions have more than once embroiled dozens of ships and planes, but all encounters terminated in the enemy's defeat. A number of squadrons and other units of the Northern Fleet and Air Force earned the Order of the Red Banner and the title of Guards. Serving in one submarine unit, for example, are five Heroes of the Soviet Union. The same unit includes a number of Red Banner and Guards ships.

Seventeen of the enemy's ships were sunk by submarine commander and Hero of the Soviet Union Lunin. Fifteen were sent to the bottom by a small submarine under the command of Hero of the Soviet Union Israel Fisanovich. Thirteen ships were destroyed by torpedoes of the submarine commanded by Hero of the Soviet Union Starikov. Many ships were sunk by other Soviet submarine crews and by fliers. Enemy shipping and warships sent to the bottom of the Barents Sea totaled more than half a million tons.

The hardest fighting done by Soviet seamen during the war fell to the lot of the Baltic Fleet. Here conditions evolved unfavorably for the Soviet Fleet. The enemy was in possession of bases and airdromes on both sides of the Gulf of Finland. His initial operations disclosed his efforts to blockade the Soviet Baltic Fleet at its bases and destroy its aircraft. The 200-mile strip of water of the Gulf of Finland, the enemy's airdromes and bases on both shores, and the numerous islands, sandbanks and shallows of the gulf rendered conditions extremely difficult for the Baltic Fleet. All advantages were enjoyed by the enemy.

Far from laying down their arms, however, the



Radiophoto

A group of fliers of an air unit of the Black Sea Fleet who distinguished themselves in the fighting for Sevastopol. In the center is Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant Colonel Nikolai Chelnokov

sailors intensified their struggle, devised new tactics and brought their ingenuity into play. With minimum losses they inflicted telling blows upon the enemy.

The Black Sea Fleet proved itself worthy of the fleets of the Baltic and North Seas and with them shares the gratitude of the Soviet people. The battles of Odessa, Sevastopol, Kerch and Novorossisk contributed valuable pages to the history of the Russian Navy. The "Black Death"—this is what the Rumanian and German invaders called the Soviet Black Sea sailors who defended Odessa on land—hung over the enemy at Sevastopol, Kerch and Novorossisk and will continue to harry him in the future. The Black Sea fliers and submarine and motorboat crews sent 191 enemy vessels to the bottom during the Crimean campaign alone.

How powerful were the blows of the Soviet Navy may be seen from the speech of German Admiral Doenitz, who according to the German information bureau, appeared at a shipping conference in Stettin on January 21, 1944. Doenitz on that occasion declared that the task of the German navy was to safeguard the ships of the German merchant marine. Thus, instead of blockading Soviet ports and destroying Soviet shipping, the Germans have been compelled to bestir themselves to avoid being blockaded in their own ports.

Thanks to the operations of the Red Army and Navy, fascist plans for the enslavement of the peoples in most of the world went awry. The Red Army and Red Fleet contributed a great deal to the victory: by stemming the pressure of the enemy's

forces and by bringing them to a halt and then repulsing them, the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union enabled their Allies to prepare for the final blow in the West.

How does one explain the victories of the Soviet troops? Certainly not by their superior equipment and armaments alone, and not only by their excellent training and the skill of Soviet generals and officers. A compelling factor has been the moral strength of the officers, sailors and soldiers of the Red Army and Navy, their confidence in victory and the justice of their cause. It is this moral force added to military skill that insures victory over the enemy and inspires every Soviet fighting man to feats of heroism.

Aid to Land Forces of Red Army

Soviet seamen and fliers have inflicted severe losses upon the enemy in the transport of armaments, cargoes, equipment and manpower, and thereby have taken a severe toll of his economic and military strength. The operations of the Soviet Navy on the sea and those of the Naval Brigade on land have rendered invaluable aid to land forces fighting at sectors along the coast.

Daring, initiative, ingenuity, determination and selfless devotion to country, certainty of victory and the justice of their cause, utilization of their armaments and a thorough knowledge of the enemy—such are the qualities of Soviet seamen, who have been aiding and will continue to aid the forces on land to attain final victory over the enemy.

THE BATTLE IN THE AIR

By Lieutenant Colonel N. Denisov

The Soviet-German war is now finishing its third year. All this time fierce battles have been raging in the air. But the sky after three years of war is quite different from that in the first year.

In the hot summer months of 1941 German Messerschmitts and Heinkels hovered in clouds over the roads of Russian retreat. With black crosses on their yellow wings they flew at the head of the wedges driven into Russia by the armored forces of Kleist, Guderian and other Nazi generals.



Marshal of Aviation, Alexander Novikov

Each of those days was a stern and grim ordeal for Soviet pilots. They had to be everywhere. They had to engage the German fighters and bombers and at the same time strike at the enemy infantry and tanks; they had to guard Moscow and other Soviet cities against surprise air raids. They had to combine offensive and defensive tactics. While defending themselves to the best of their ability, they attacked. It was in that first summer of the war that Soviet

pilots set fire to the oil fields of Ploesti and dropped their bombs on Berlin and other German cities.

Winter ushered in the historic battle of Moscow and the battles for Rostov and Tikhvin. The Soviet Air Force, like the entire Red Army, passed to the offensive. The grey winter sky was now a Soviet sky all along the front.

Horried at the enormous losses of the Germans, Goering withdrew the remnants of his air fleets to fields and bases deep in the rear. German flying schools feverishly set about training new contingents of pilots, designers hastened to remodel their machines. For the first time the Germans were disappointed in the Luftwaffe, which had earned a reputation for "invincibility" in Poland, France, Belgium and Yugoslavia. But in the first months of the war with Russia they learned the strength of the Soviet air fleet, now recovered from the first unexpected blow and growing stronger daily.

The first war winter in Russia showed how hardy the Soviet pilots were, how well adapted to control the skies in the stern conditions of the Russian winter. The German Heinkel-113, "the fighter-plane fighter," failed in every winter flight, being structurally unadapted to heavy frosts. But the Soviet Yakovlevs calmly patrolled the skies, protecting their troops from air attacks.

The Germans began their air offensive of 1942 at Kerch. Over 500 of their planes operated for several days on a sector 20 kilometers wide. Stern air battles at Voronezh and other parts of the vast Soviet-German front followed. Soviet pilots put up a vigorous resistance to the new German offensive. Now, besides their own Yakovlevs, Ilyushins and Petlyakovs, they had machines sent from overseas by their Allies. British Hurricanes and American Airacobras fought wing to wing with Soviet fighters. Bostons flew in the same formation with Soviet bombers, dropping their loads on the Germans. The air battles gained in scale daily, hundreds and hundreds of new planes joining the flight. It was a test of endurance. The master in the air would be the one with the stronger nerves, the one more skilled in air fighting, the one who in the long run would have more planes in the sky.

Battle of Stalingrad

Air fighting on the Soviet-German front in 1942 reached its climax in the unprecedented Battle of Stalingrad. Hitler ordered Field Marshal Richthofen to reduce the city from the air. He sent over 1,000 planes against it, squadrons of picked fighter pilots and the best bomber navigators. He constantly in-

Soviet planes patrol the boundless expanses of the USSR



Over the heart of the Soviet Union—Moscow—fly Soviet planes guarding the great Capital



Soviet P-2 dive bombers flying over the Caucasus



creased the pressure on the city, withdrawing units from other fronts and replenishing losses sustained by the Luftwaffe at the hands of Soviet airmen defending Stalingrad.

The Stalingrad air battle was distinguished by the extraordinary staunchness and tenacity of Soviet airmen. There were days when 200 to 300 German bombers appeared over the city at one time. The task of the Soviet fighters, whose machines were reinforced by LA-5s, a new and powerful type designed by Lavochkin, was not only to engage the Junkers and Heinkels and the huge four-engined Focke-Wulf 200s, but also to combat a group of German aces sent to Stalingrad by Goering from a special fighter unit which he himself had trained.

The Germans could not stand the strain of the battle and were unable to break the resistance of the defenders of the Volga stronghold. The Red Army did not surrender Stalingrad, and the Soviet Air Force did not surrender Stalingrad's skies.

The Stalingrad air battle ended in a mighty offensive by the Soviet Air Force, which blockaded von Paulus' army from the air and helped Red Army ground forces to surround the Germans in a solid ring. Hitler sent many hundreds of transport planes of all types to von Paulus' aid; caravans of Junkers 52s carried bread, shells and cartridges to the surrounded German troops. Hundreds of these freight planes were intercepted by Soviet fighters and sent crashing with their loads. Richthofen, with the remnants of his war craft, was unable to help either the transport planes or von Paulus' troops. They were shattered from the ground and the air by the Red Army, which had now passed to the offensive.

Soviet Pilots Dominate Skies

Continuing their offensive in the Don and the Salsk steppes, in the North Caucasus and on the Central Front, breaking the blockade of Leningrad and clearing the Germans out of Velikie Luki, the Red Army men kept their eyes always on the sky. Whether grey or blue, cloudy or clear, it was invariably dominated by Soviet pilots. Over the ground troops powerful Ilyushins and swift Petlyakovs flew westward, and Yakovlevs and Lavochkins patrolled. Day and night the air resounded to the hum of Soviet engines, drowning out the German planes, of which hundreds and thousands lay in fragments along the line of advance of the Red Army.

A large-scale air war opened in May, 1943, ushered in by the big and furious battle in the Kuban which lasted several days. The Germans, determined to recover their lost supremacy in the air, massed their air forces to the limit. Hundreds of fighters and bombers appeared over the field of battle. Again they tried to carry the day by numbers—in vain. After losing hundreds of craft they were forced to realize

that the masters of the Kuban skies were and remained the Soviet airmen, who in this battle earned new fame and glory. In the Kuban last spring the Soviet fighter pilots displayed their skill, and Soviet bomber and Stormovik pilots their accuracy of aim. This battle revealed the shrewdness and intelligence of Soviet air commanders and their firm direction of operations of the airmen.

On July 5, 1943, the historic Battle of Orel began. Thousands of planes appeared and the Germans strove fiercely to gain superiority in the air. They failed. The sky was saturated with the planes of both sides, and the battle over the front line lasted several days. The Soviet Air Force acted vigorously and offensively and managed to gain the initiative in the air, although at a certain price. The German offensive was halted by troops of all arms, including aviation. The Soviet air fleet passed from the defensive to the offensive.

Crisis in Tactics of Luftwaffe

In this battle a certain crisis was already to be observed in the tactics of the Luftwaffe, which began to adapt itself and virtually to act in accord with the dictates of Soviet pilots. This crisis became still more evident when the Red Army passed to the offensive at Orel and Belgorod. The air battles over these cities assumed the form of a large-scale offensive of the Soviet Air Force, which in one month destroyed 2,500 German aircraft.

The air fighting over the Dnieper at this stage was of an intense and exacting character. Soviet fighter craft had several duties to perform: to protect river crossings and communications; to clear the Germans from the sky over bridgeheads seized by the Red Army on the right bank of the river, and to escort bombers and Stormoviks acting against the counter-attacking German groups.

Led by officers and generals who have grown to maturity and gained valuable experience, the Soviet airmen win well-deserved credit in every operation. In every Order of the Day noting a new victory of the Red Army, Marshal Stalin makes special mention of the Air Force and thanks its generals and crews.

Let us take a look at the sky at this stage of the war. It is filled with Soviet planes operating in accordance with the plans of air commanders who have grown wise and experienced during the war. Supremacy in the air was won by Soviet pilots at a heavy price in fierce fighting against a strong adversary. But the Germans lost over 14,000 planes in 1943 alone.

The Soviet Air Force may be relied upon to make every effort not to surrender this supremacy, but to consolidate it in future battles with the Luftwaffe.

THE WEST WIND

By Ilya Ehrenburg

The Germans are fond of insinuating that they have some sort of new "secret weapon" up their sleeve. The Red Army has publicly demonstrated that no perfection in German armaments can affect the course of events: six-barreled mortars did not save the Germans in the Caucasus nor did the Tigers carry Hitler into Kursk.

I don't know if the Germans possess a novelty this season, but they have a very old "secret weapon" manufactured in Goebbels' office: lies.

Prior to Stalingrad the Germans tried to make our Allies believe there was no sense in their fighting on the European Continent, as Russia was beaten and doomed. After Stalingrad the Germans tried to persuade the Americans and British they would do well to refrain from offensive operations, as Russia was too strong. The Germans made out the "Atlantic Wall" to be an impregnable stronghold. They paid more attention to propaganda than to building fortifications. Hitler is so accustomed to dealing with doltish Fritzes he couldn't realize he was talking to free and thinking people. Now he can see that paper "walls" and radio "mines" have not stopped the soldiers of the Expeditionary Corps.

When describing German prisoners taken in Bayeux, American correspondents stress the fact that there are many adolescents and elderly men among them. The Red Army will hail this testimony with satisfaction, for we know where the young and sturdy Germans are. We have disposed of them in sand, in black earth and in clay, in the Kalmyk steppes, on the banks of the Volga, in the Volkhov marshes, in the Ukrainian plains, in the woods of the Crimea and Moldavia, under the rocks of Rzhev, Velikie Luki and Tarnopol. What our Allies now see before them are those Germans whom we dub of "totalized" semi-manufacture, fit only to be exterminated.

Goebbels assures us that the opening of hostilities was "hailed by the Germans with immense satisfaction." One might think the inhabitants of Berlin enthusiastically clapped their hands and cried, "Victory! The British have landed. The Americans are in France. Sieg Heil!" One might think the Fritzes in Yassy and Kovel cried jubilantly, "Thank God! It isn't better in Cherbourg now!"

As a matter of fact, the news of the Allied landing threw the Germans into deep dejection: they realized the curtain had rung up on the last act.

Until not so long ago that rogue Goebbels kept up German spirits by talking about "*Vergeltung*." He

consoled the inhabitants of blitzed cities with the hope of retaliation. He concealed from the silly Germans the fact that Cologne, Hamburg and Berlin were a retaliation for Coventry, Belgrade and Chernigov, and that what awaited the criminals was not a chance to repeat their crimes, but punishment.

Now, instead of the promised "*Vergeltung*," instead of the invasion of Britain, instead of the ashes of London, what the Germans see is the troops of the coalition in the green pastures of Normandy. And the Germans are not jubilating, but shivering in their boots.

Fritzes on the Eastern Front used to cherish the hope of being transferred to France. "Oh, for the beach of Cherbourg . . . Oh, for the cream of Isigny . . . Oh, for the cider of Caen," they sighed ecstatically. Now they have nothing more to dream about, for the flames of France are beginning to resemble the fires of Russia. When Fritzes in Carentan learn what Fritzes thought about in Korsun and Sevastopol, half the job will be done.

When in the summer of 1942 Hitler advanced on the Kuban he every now and again brought fresh divisions from France. A year later Hitler tried to check our offensive with troops transferred from Brittany, Belgium and Denmark. At that time the most unpleasant route for Fritzes was from West to East. There will be no return route. Hitler will not be in a position to stop the British and Americans by transferring divisions from Russia; the Red Army does not like that sort of thing; its habit is to bury Fritzes and not to dispatch them payable on delivery.

Our Allies have begun well, and having begun they won't stop. They have plenty of aircraft, tanks and reserves. They have good generals and tough soldiers. What do they lack? One thing, in my opinion—hate. It is hard for a man of Manitoba or Texas to understand what Hitler's army is like. Allied soldiers now see the first towns and hamlets of desecrated France. They have seen the grief and anger of the French people. Correspondents report that the French invite Allied soldiers into their homes and dig up bottles of buried wine to treat them with. It is heady wine; in it is stored the anguish and fury of France.

Ay, the British will now see on the ground the assassins of Coventry, and the Americans will learn to know what a blood-friend is. This June will bring many changes. The blood of heroes will inspire their fellow-countrymen. The wind from the Channel will

fan the fires of wrath. The earth has its rights, and the soldiers who have marched through Normandy will want to march through Prussia.

The dismay of the Germans may be judged from their communiques. They report: "We successfully repulsed British attacks, after which our troops evacuated Bayeux, which is of no military importance." I recall another communique: "Our troops repulsed all Russian attacks, after which we evacuated Poltava." When the Germans are dislodged from a city they always say they left out of caprice.

In August, 1943, when the German army was fleeing to the Dnieper, the German information bureau grandiloquently proclaimed: "We retain the initiative." Yesterday the German information bureau declared, in reference to the fighting in Normandy, "Hostilities in northern France are developing ex-

clusively in accordance with the plan of the German command."

Did you think the Allied landing was carried out in accordance with the plan of General Eisenhower? Nothing of the kind. The Allies landed in accordance with Rommel's plan. Did you think the Allies dislodged the Germans from Bayeux, Ste. Mere-Eglise, Formigny and Isigny? Not at all. It was the Germans who lured the Allies into these towns. Very good. Let us hope "the plan of the German command" will be carried out in Cherbourg, Le Havre, Paris and Tours.

When they see the ashes of beautiful Rouen, which the Germans burned down in 1940, our Allies will undoubtedly say, "We'll have to get to Berlin." We knew that long ago; the ashes are knocking at our hearts. The Red Army will not linger.



Guards Lieutenant Colonel Shchekal and Guards Lieutenant Colonel Lukashevich watch the progress of operations at an advanced front-line post

THE SOVIET GUERRILLA MOVEMENT

By Colonel A. Karpov

For three years the flames of war have been raging on Soviet soil; for three years the Soviet people have been courageously defending the honor and independence of their country. Step by step the Red Army has been liberating the towns and villages held by the Nazis and bringing nearer the hour of final victory over Hitlerite Germany. Questions of great historical importance are being decided on the battlefield. Hitler's tyranny is moving to its inevitable doom.

But the fighting has been going on not only at the front. For the past three years a tremendous struggle has also been in progress behind the German lines. This struggle is called the guerrilla war.

Some historians will draw a comparison between the guerrilla warfare of today and the activities of the Russian guerrillas in the War of 1812 against Napoleon. There are no doubt many points of similarity between the two wars. The primary one is that Soviet guerrillas are keeping up the heroic traditions of the Russian peasantry during the Napoleonic invasion. They are willing to sacrifice everything in the struggle. The best indication of the nature and scope of the guerrilla movement today is the fact that their feats, courage and heroism are no longer looked upon as unusual.

The guerrilla movement flared up and spread immediately after the Germans invaded the Soviet Union. Opposition in the rear of the German armies grew to such proportions that in a few months the Germans found difficulty in controlling the situation along their communications lines, in important industrial centers, strategic areas and junction points.

Schoolteacher Becomes a Guerrilla General

The growth and spread of the guerrilla movement may be traced through the progress of hundreds of different detachments and formations. The history of the guerrillas led by General Kovpak, for instance, is in every way remarkable.

Sidor Artemyevich Kovpak, a former Ukrainian public school teacher and rank and file Soviet official who came from the people, formed a small underground group as soon as the Germans reached that part of the country in which he lived. At first this group could not even be called a detachment. It was a tiny cell, the nucleus of which grew day by day. All those who deeply hated the Germans and were ready to give up their lives for victory came to join Kovpak. Then several groups were formed, and in another three to four weeks each of the groups turned into a small guerrilla detachment.

The task now was to increase the size of the detachments, to strengthen them and to provide every avenger with arms and ammunition. Before long Kovpak was heading several large guerrilla detachments. He was, in fact, the leader of a small army which carried out important operations, fought several offensive actions and inflicted severe losses on the enemy.

In the course of the first two years, Kovpak's men fought their way through 217 districts and 13 regions held by the Germans. They routed the German garrisons of 39 district seats. In the summer of 1943 his detachment overcame stiff enemy resistance sweeping from the Kiev Region to the Carpathian Mountains. In that raid 13 large enemy garrisons were wiped out, and a large number of important military and industrial objectives destroyed. When the Red Army reached the Dnieper and drove forward through the Ukraine, west of the Dnieper, Kovpak's detachments established contact with regular Soviet troops and continued to strike the Wehrmacht in close cooperation with them. The Soviet Government made Kovpak a general, and twice conferred upon him the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. He became a famous and beloved figure throughout the country.

Numerous other instances of selfless service to the country can be cited. The Soviet people will never forget the heroic struggle of the Bryansk guerrillas who, for almost two years, held several dozen large districts. The detachments operating in the Bryansk forests not only inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, but also riveted large German forces and in so doing rendered valuable service to regular Soviet troops.

The total figures of the damage done by the Soviet guerrillas to the German army have not yet been published, but preliminary reports indicate that the struggle behind enemy lines has been tremendously effective. In the course of the first two years of the war the guerrillas destroyed over 300,000 enemy officers and men, wrecked over 3,000 trains, knocked out 1,991 German tanks, 476 aircraft, etc.

They smash important military objectives, blow up ammunition and food supplies, wreck railways and highways and derail troop trains. The guerrillas frequently engage large German forces in open battle and inflict heavy casualties on them. This action in the rear of the German army is like a constantly erupting volcano.

After three years of fighting, the guerrilla movement on the Soviet-German front has grown into a truly national war, tremendous in scale and grandeur.

SEVASTOPOL BUILDS AGAIN

By V. Efremov

In the center of Sevastopol not a single building remained intact. All factories, quays, railway stations, schools and hospitals were ruthlessly smashed. During the last days of their stay the Germans took particular care to lay mines all along the waterfront, where sappers are still busy clearing minefields.

For over two years the fascists ran riot here. Soviet civilians rotted in Gestapo dungeons, were deported to slave-labor in Germany or forced to build Nazi fortifications. All were brazenly plundered. In April the Germans rounded up all the people of Zelenaya Gorka, a suburb of Sevastopol, and drove them to the bay for "evacuation." Then wholesale plunder began. Sewing machines, bedding, clothes, curtains, even old boots—everything down to the last thread—were carried off from the homes.

Fresh Nazi crimes are being brought to light daily by members of the Extraordinary Committee for the investigation of Nazi atrocities, now at work in Sevastopol. Bodies of citizens murdered by the Germans have been discovered in an anti-tank ditch on the city's outskirts. More recent burial places of Nazi victims have also come to light, and it has been established conclusively that under the guise of evacuation civilians were packed into unseaworthy barges, which were towed out to sea at night and sunk. Dead bodies are still appearing in the waters around Sevastopol, many of the victims being bound with ropes.

When the Red Army recaptured Sevastopol, no more than 2,000 people remained in the entire city. There has since been a steady influx from all parts of the Crimea, and by May 25 the population numbered 10,000. The city is gradually reviving. Sevastopol is a kind of capital for sailors of the Black Sea Fleet, and the citizens are doing their utmost to restore it as quickly as possible.

Rehabilitation of Sevastopol's industries is under way. Railway men are enthusiastically rebuilding the local station where over 1,000 cars were wrecked and left stranded on the tracks. The Germans blew up the Kamyshlov Bridge, and four tunnels which they had packed with cars. Two local power stations were also dynamited. By May 20 the power workers had launched a 400-kilowatt power station supplying the offices of the city with electric light.

A large mechanized bakery and packing plant are again in operation and the city's water mains have been repaired. Classes have begun in three schools which were only partly destroyed, and three polyclinics and a cinema house have been reopened. A drive for the speedy rebuilding of the Nazi-battered city has been initiated by the workers and office employees of the Korabelny district.

Sevastopol's citizens have contributed over 200,000 rubles for the building of a tank column to be given the name of Sevastopol.

Youth of Labor Reserves Become Skilled Workers

During the Patriotic War the schools under the Administration of Labor Reserves have trained over 1,600,000 skilled workers for Soviet industry and transport. Most of them have now become full-fledged workers who fulfil and exceed their production quotas. Thus the schools of labor reserves created on Stalin's initiative have fully justified themselves as a main source of organized replenishment of working cadres.

The new detachments of young workers are sent mainly to basic industries such as iron, steel and non-ferrous metallurgy and coal mines, and to industries manufacturing planes, ammunition, tanks and armaments, as well as to rail and water transport.

The directors of a number of factory apprenticeship schools are preparing for formal graduation

meetings at which they will make reports and demonstrate the results of studies and the students' achievements in amateur arts. Representatives of factories to which the graduates are being sent have been invited to the meetings. They will tell their new comrades about the factories and departments where the latter will work, and about working and living conditions. Directors of numerous factories are preparing to welcome the youth. Special ward and youth dormitories are being equipped, and stocks of working clothes and instruments laid in. The young workers—graduates of the factory apprenticeship schools—will be in the front ranks of the fighters for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of production plans of their factories—real helpers of the Red Army.

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MILITARY AND POLITICAL RESULTS OF THREE YEARS OF THE PATRIOTIC WAR

Following is the communique of the Soviet Information Bureau issued June 22, 1944:

Three years have elapsed today since the German-fascist bandit gangs villainously attacked the Soviet Union. For three years the Soviet people have been courageously waging the Patriotic War against the insolent invaders. Since the first days of the war, the peoples of our country unanimously arose in defense of their motherland.

In the heavy, sanguinary battles on the 3,000-

kilometer front, the Red Army has checked the German-fascist army of many million men supplied with up-to-date military equipment, and inflicted upon it tremendous losses in manpower and arms. The fascist war machine, which had swept with fire and sword over the towns and villages of 10 European countries, missed fire in the battles against our Army.

In the very first year of the war the Red Army effected the slaughter of the Germans at Moscow



These Soviet fliers, bearers of 12 high Government awards, destroyed 30 German tanks in two days of action

and routed the enemy's picked shock-troops. In the past one and one-half years, since the German-fascist troops were routed at Stalingrad, the enemy has not been able to recover. Soviet troops developed the offensive along the whole front, broke up the Germans' powerful defense systems at Stalingrad, Orel, Smolensk, Leningrad, on the Mius River and on the Dnieper, at Perekop and Sevastopol, on the Karelian Isthmus and the Svir River, and forced large water barriers—the Don, Severny Donets, Desna, Volkhov, Dnieper, Yuzhny Bug, Dniester, Prut, Seret, Narva and Svir—and thereby proved that all the walls and fortresses about which the Hitlerites prattled so much cannot hold out when the destruction and overcoming of these walls and fortresses is undertaken seriously by troops tried and steeled in battle.

Due to the able strategy of the Supreme Command, the well-considered and resolute tactics of Soviet generals and officers, the heroism and military skill of its soldiers and, lastly, due to its powerful war equipment, the Red Army has inflicted a number of grave defeats on the united picked armies of the Germans, Italians, Rumanians, Hungarians and Finns.

The great victories achieved by our troops at Moscow, Stalingrad and in the Caucasus, at Orel and Smolensk, at Leningrad and in the Donets Basin, on the Dnieper and in the Crimea, in the Ukraine west of the Dnieper, on the Dniester and in the Karelian Isthmus, will forever go down in history. During these offensive battles the Soviet troops liberated about one and one-half million square kilometers of enemy-occupied territory, advanced nearly 2,000 kilometers to the west, reached our frontiers over a large stretch of the front and entered the territory of Rumania.

The victories of the Red Army have brought liberation from fascist bondage to millions of Soviet people. Our troops have deprived the Germans of their sources of industrial raw materials and food in occupied regions, while "living space" in the East, of which the Hitlerites had dreamed, has turned into graves for millions of German soldiers, a gigantic cemetery of fascist war equipment.

Soviet Guerrillas Aid Red Army

Tremendous assistance in the struggle against the German-fascist invaders has been rendered to the Red Army by gallant Soviet guerrillas. In the course of three years of war they continued to smash enemy rear establishments and headquarters, destroying his communications and telegraph and telephone lines, and ruthlessly exterminating the German-fascist scoundrels. The Soviet guerrillas saved many thou-

sands of Soviet people from extermination and abduction to fascist slavery.

In three years of war the German-fascist troops have lost in fighting on the Soviet-German front over 7,800,000 officers and men killed or taken prisoner, up to 70,000 tanks, 60,000 aircraft and over 90,000 guns. During the same period the losses of our troops totaled 5,300,000 men killed, taken prisoner or missing, 49,000 tanks, 30,128 aircraft and 48,000 guns. Our Allies, the United States of America and Great Britain, have made considerable contributions to the successes of the Red Army by supplying us with very valuable strategical raw materials and armaments and by subjecting the military objectives of Germany to systematic bombardments, thereby undermining the latter's military might.

Thus, having frustrated Hitler's plans of a lightning war in the initial period of the Patriotic War, the Red Army in the subsequent period upset and buried the enemy's defensive strategy and his plans for the consolidation of captured Soviet territories. The German-fascist army has been beaten, and now faces utter defeat. Such is the military result of the past three years of the Patriotic War.

Friendship of Peoples of USSR

When unleashing the war against the Soviet Union, the Hitlerite imperialists believed that the very first military reverses of the Red Army would undermine the confidence of the peoples of our country in their Government, would sow discord among peoples of the USSR and would weaken the union of workers, peasants and intellectuals which forms the foundation of the Soviet State. In reality, however, wartime difficulties only served to rally the workers of the Soviet rear still closer, to render even stronger their union with their popular Soviet Government. The friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union has gained strength and has grown tempered like steel in the progress of the Patriotic War. The union of workers, peasants and intellectuals is based on the vital interests of the working people of Soviet society, and has become still more stable.

The German fiends also calculated that Soviet industry would prove incapable of coping with the difficult tasks of the production of up-to-date arms on a mass scale, that our transport would prove incapable of coping with military transportation, and agriculture with the supply to the Army and the population of food and industrial raw materials. But these plans of the ill-starred German conqueror have burst like a soap bubble. It is the economy of Hitlerite Germany that has been exhausted as a result of three years of war, and not the economy of the Soviet Union. The defeats sustained by the Germans on the Soviet-German front, and the blow-

dealt by the Allied Air Force have undermined Germany's military-economic might.

At the same time the industry, transport and agriculture of the Soviet country have successfully passed the test of war. The Soviet people spares no strength for the defense of the motherland and is imbued with determination to protect the Soviet State, which it created, from all enemy encroachments. The Patriotic War has given rise to an unprecedented surge of patriotic feeling of the peoples, and to an inexhaustive creative energy of the masses of the people aimed at rendering support to the Red Army.

At present, on the threshold of the fourth year of the war, the Soviet Union possesses a powerful war economy which meets the requirements of the Red Army in armaments, ammunition, food and equipment. Soviet workers, collective farmers and intellectuals have placed the national economy of the Soviet Union in the service of the front, and supplied the Red Army with everything necessary for victory. The enemy's former numerical superiority in tanks and aircraft is a thing of the past, whereas the economic possibilities of the Soviet Union are growing day by day.

Thus the Soviet people have upset all the enemy's calculations on the instability of the Soviet system. The Soviet State, based on the inviolable fraternal companionship of its peoples, has been consolidated and has gained strength in the course of the war; whereas the fascist state, based on the oppression of nations, has failed to stand the trials of war and faces inevitable catastrophe. Such is the political result of the past three years of the Patriotic War.

Three years ago the Hitlerites believed themselves masters of Europe. Enslaving the countries of Western Europe, Germany drew Italy, Rumania, Finland, Hungary and Bulgaria into a bandit alliance. Implanting and supporting her agents in neutral countries, she exerted strong pressure upon them and obtained from them important concessions. Hitlerite Germany endangered the life and security of all peoples of the world. At that time the freedom-loving peoples had just begun to unite into a single anti-Hitler camp. Actually, our country singly withstood the onslaught of all the forces of Hitlerite Germany and her associates.

Now the situation has radically changed. Now it is not Hitlerite Germany who advances and scores successes, as was the case three years ago; but on the contrary, the Armed Forces of the Allied states batter and press back the German-fascist invaders everywhere. The Allied states enjoy a superiority over the enemy as regards the numbers and quality of troops and armaments. The unity of the Allied states is now as firm as never before. The Allied states have coordinated plans for the utter defeat

of the armed forces of Hitlerite Germany.

The brilliantly carried out invasion of northern France by the British and American troops, and the successful offensive of Allied troops in Italy, mean that henceforward Germany will have to fight on the territory of Europe both against the Red Army and against the troops of our Allies, Great Britain and the United States of America.



Four members of the gun crew which destroyed seven enemy tanks, eight guns, seven mortars, nine trucks and up to 300 soldiers and officers of the enemy. From left to right: Red Army man Goncharenko, Medical Assistant Aginskaya, Senior Lieutenant Khankov, and Senior Lieutenant Aginsky

Now when the joint efforts of the Red Army and the Armies of our Allies are aimed directly at the liberation of the countries enslaved by the Germans, when the troops of the United Nations with an iron hand grasp Hitlerite Germany and her vassals in Europe by their throats, the Hitler band can no longer avert by any means its inevitable and complete defeat.

It is now clear to everyone that the Hitlerites, who were out to conquer the whole world, undertook a

task which was beyond their strength. The position of the Hitlerite clique reminds of the fate of the frog from Krylov's fable which tried to equal the bull in corpulence, panted and puffed up, but then burst from exertion and died. The bandit fascist bloc is falling apart.

As a result of grave military defeats, fascist Germany has found herself on the verge of destruction. Italy, Germany's former ally, now fights against the German imperialists. The criminal ruling clique of Finland, in order to please Hitler, has rejected the generous peace proposals of the Soviet Union and actually has already brought Finland to a military debacle. Hitler's other vassals—Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria—hang over an abyss. The associates of fascist Germany in Europe have had enough time and all the necessary conditions to break with Germany and save their countries from ruin and devastating war. However the Hitlerites' associates have grown too firmly together with Hitler's bandit gang and do not care about the fates of their peoples. Hitler's Finnish, Rumanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian flunkies prefer to act in detriment to the interests of the peoples of their countries, in order to please fascist Germany. Hitler's flunkies have brought matters to such a pass that their countries have been occupied by German troops. In an effort to delay the shifting of the war to the territory of Germany, the Hitlerites have transformed Finland, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria into a forward edge of Germany's defense. However, the peoples of these countries, whose rulers sold themselves to the Hitlerites, now have the opportunity of ejecting the German occupationists and their underlings from their countries with the support of the Armed Forces of the Allied states. Only in this way can the peoples of Hitler's vassal countries win their right to liberty.

The Hitlerites' rule in Europe has clearly demonstrated that the fascists strangle the freedom and independence of nations. At the same time, the Armies of the United Nations are marching to Europe as the liberators of the peoples from Hitlerite tyranny, and enter the territories of countries oppressed by the fascists in order to restore the freedom and independence of the peoples. For this very reason the peoples enslaved by the Germans now render and will continue to render ever-growing support to the Armed Forces of the United Nations.

Thus all the calculations and plans of the Hitlerite invaders-imperialists in the sphere of foreign policy have completely collapsed in the progress of the war; the Hitlerite bandits' bloc has gone bankrupt, while the alliance of the freedom-loving peoples has grown to become an invincible force

and now has every possibility to destroy the bandit nest of the fascist aggressors in Europe, to punish those guilty of the sufferings and calamities of peoples and to thwart the possibility of the repetition of annexationist wars. Such is the result of the three years of war in foreign policy.

The military and political results of the three years of war clearly prove that Hitlerite Germany has already lost the war and that the hour of her utter defeat is nearing. The Armies of the USSR, Great Britain and the United States are storming their way from all sides toward the most important vital centers of fascist Germany, and the time is not distant when the triumph of these efforts will be announced.

The war is now nearing the end. But the remaining part of the road to complete victory will not be easy. The war has entered the most violent, decisive and most difficult phase. The injured, hunted-down fascist beast will furiously snap back. The nearer the front approaches the vital centers of Germany, the stiffer will be the Hitlerites' resistance. Several more powerful blows will be needed in order to completely crush the enemy and throw him to the dust. It is clear that these tasks can be accomplished only by joint resolute actions of the Armies of the Allied countries, and by putting in time the main Armed Forces at the disposal of the United Nations into active battles against Hitlerite Germany and her vassals. It is not to be doubted that the Allied states, which set as their purpose saving the world from the fascist pogrom-makers, will bring into action all their forces in order to achieve this great aim.

Power Stations Restored

Deputy People's Commissar of Power Stations of the USSR Drobyshev recently stated that restoration of power stations, transmission lines and substations is being carried out over a tremendous area, from Stalingrad to the newly-liberated towns on the western frontiers of the country, and from Bryansk to Novorossisk, Krasnodar, Nikolayev, Odessa and the Crimea.

Over 50 powerful turbines and generators ruined by the Germans have already been restored and put into operation, as well as more than 70 boilers, over 4,000 kilometers of transmission lines and over 20 substations. Among the restored electric stations are the large ones at Stalingrad and Zuyevka—largest in the Donbas—Voronezh, Kiev and other cities. A main district power stations are already operating in the Donbas.

A Red Army motorized unit passing through a street of a liberated town



An anti-tank rifle crew in action



A group of Red Army men with a German tank they captured



FRANCE IN FLAMES

By Ilya Ehrenburg

On June 14, 1940 the Germans entered Paris. I was one of the very few witnesses of that crime—the city was deserted. I saw the Germans march through the streets of desecrated Paris.

A freckled, red-haired doctor of the police law marched past the Marseillaise statue. It seemed that the maid of stone was singing, "Liberty, dear Liberty." But the freckled, red-haired German roared, "Sieg heil!" What did this mole believe in? In the Fuehrer, in timetables, in a new order, in trouser braces, jail bars, and in "ein, zwei."

They came to the Paris of Victor Hugo with quotations from Goebbels on their lips. They came to the Paris of Delacroix with their swine snout. They came to the Paris of flowers and wit with skull and crossbones on their sleeves and graveyard worms in their hearts.

I looked at them and knew they were contemptible. Oh, yes, they had plenty of tanks. They could shoot down genius. They could spit upon the Venus de Milo. They could burn every book in the world. But I felt nothing toward them but contempt. Looking at those Germans I was ready to bow in veneration before every Paris cat, to laud sheep and extol pigs. And they have the insolence to call other nations "sub-men." What are they? Sub-cattle.

That was four years ago. For three years the Red Army has been mincing, crushing and rending the one-time conquerors. Authors' dissertations on the superiority of German dung over human thought lie buried underground at Stalingrad, Kastornaya and Rzhev. Buried, too, are the blonde assassins and blanded butchers, the race stallions and samplers of human flesh. If the flag of liberty is waving over the coast of Normandy, it is because the Red Army has been exterminating the Nazis for three years, winter and summer, day and night.

And now great days have come for Paris. It is all afire. On June 6 crowds gathered on its boulevards. They sang the *Marseillaise*. The song of an irate people gushed up out of the ground like a geyser. It resounded over the old houses: "Aux armes, citoyens!" It was sung by the crowds of other towns, too: in Lyons, Bordeaux and Marseilles.

The children of France not only sing of arms; they have taken to arms. The Swiss newspapers report that Jura and Savoy are wrapped in flames. The roads to Basle and Geneva have been dynamited. Grenoble is surrounded by rebels. The partisans in Jura are exterminating Germans and traitors.

Patriots have destroyed the roads into Spain. They have interfered with Rundstedt's calculations. They

have upset Rommel's timetable. Fighting is raging in Toulouse, Tarbes, Limoges. Storms are gathering over France. Paris calls to the Allied Armies: "I am here at my post. Make haste. I am still alive. And I will seize my jailers by the throat."

The Germans are still striding the streets of Paris. But they are the last, we think. They will have neither sons nor successors. They will not escape from Paris. A Frenchwoman points out an ober-leutnant to her child and says, "Look . . ." They are living corpses, dead men with the spring still wound up in them. The agony of death is in their faces, and the mist of death is in their eyes. They are already the offal of history. They came in that black summer; and this summer they will not escape.

We have read about landing craft, scout planes and gliders. I would like to tell how the French people facilitated the landing of the Allies. The guerrillas and francs-tireurs from Normandy blew up the power stations which supplied electricity for the defense works, cut the roads from Paris to Cherbourg, from Paris to Granville, from Cherbourg to Lisieux, from St. Lo to Caen. The French did not wait for an opportune moment; they made it.

The representative of the Provisional Government of the French Republic reports from Bayeux: "Yesterday Bayeux celebrated its liberation. Frenchmen came from all the surrounding villages. Thousands of patriots cried to the representative of the Provisional Government: 'Mobilize us!' This was demanded by ex-servicemen, by adolescents, even by women. I was asked the same questions everywhere: 'When will we be given arms? When will we be enrolled in de Gaulle's army?' Many of the inhabitants of Bayeux are already engaged in responsible and dangerous missions on forward lines and on the other side of the front."

That is France in June, 1944. Perhaps there were some who thought they would find a sleeping beauty who would have to be awakened with a kiss. No: before them they see a woman-soldier, a soldier of the Republic, Marianne from Valmy and Verdun. And she wants only one thing: arms.

The guns in the Baltic re-echo the guns in the Channel. The Red Army does not like to rest when there are captive maidens and desecrated cities to rescue. The Red Army is marching to the West. Its victories lend wings to our Allies. Its victories inspire France. Paris will soon be settling accounts for that June of 1940. Above the dead bodies of the last boches will wave the flag of liberty.

THE KARELIAN ISTHMUS

By Konstantin Simonov

The enemy invariably invokes hatred. This is natural and just; but the strength of this hatred is not always uniform since in addition to its general causes there are sometimes personal reasons which can increase it to an infinite degree.

Here on the Leningrad Front, and in the city itself, hatred for the Finns knows no bounds. This is easy to understand when you consider the role played by the Finns in all that has taken place in and around Leningrad these last two and one-half years. If for one moment you allow that Hitler's Finnish satellites might not have followed so servilely and cynically in their German masters' footsteps and attacked us, then the Leningrad blockade would not have succeeded in the form the Germans conducted it. Leningrad would have been in touch with the North, with Murmansk and with the whole country. The deprivations its citizens endured would never have reached the pitch they did. Hunger would not have taken a toll of so many lives. In short, one of the cruelest and most terrible pages in the annals of military history would not have been written.

We are indebted as much to the Finns as to the Germans. This must never be forgotten. And nobody here forgets it. Nothing here—neither the innumerable trenches carefully fortified for three years, nor the dozens of rows of barbed wire, nor the granite pyramids and pillboxes, nor the thing that is hardest of all—fear of death which, say what you will, lives in even the most seasoned soldier—nothing can check the people whose hatred is violent and of long standing. Long have they awaited the day and the hour of retribution. For what? For the women and children of Leningrad who were killed, for the mothers and sisters who died of hunger, for maimed relatives and friends, and for the beautiful city with gaping wounds inflicted by shellings and bombings.

Our men have bided their time and then gone forward with determination and speed.

The Finns have expended much labor endeavoring to check us at the first line of fortifications. The first defense line extends several kilometers; a solid wire stretched on stakes alternates with wire twisted in the German type. Trenches are everywhere, lined with timber and well-camouflaged. Every elevation, even the most insignificant, has its bunker. Minefields and fortifications are endless. Mines are everywhere, everything is prepared for a prolonged defense.

To give the Finns their due, they showed great perseverance in their preparations for our storming which they expected as a criminal expects the inevitable punishment for the murder he has committed. They prepared doggedly, and intended to put up stiff resistance. And if this did not bring the results they wanted, the credit is due to the stubbornness of the Russian soldiers and officers who also prepared in their turn for the storming—prepared with the doggedness, caution and patience born of their ineradicable hatred of the Finnish murderers. I use the word murderers intentionally, because I do not want to give the name soldiers to those who starved the women and children of Leningrad.

Beyond the first belt of the Finnish fortifications the woods begin. There are numerous lakes with narrow, woody defiles between them. Here the groves are so dense that it is difficult for a man to pass through them. Through these woods the surviving defenders of the first Finnish line escaped. They did not retreat, but ran from the first to the second line. There were very few left to run. Most of them had perished or surrendered at the first line.

Despite the system of fortifications extending to a great depth, the thorough preparations for the storming and the impetus of the thrust did the work. Contrary to all canons of military statistics, we on the offensive suffered considerably fewer losses than the Finns on the defensive.

Narrow woodland paths run for 20 to 30 kilometers through groves from the first belt of fortifications to the second which our troops are taking and storming now. It has been broken through in one sector. Here and there along the roads lie wrecked Finnish guns and German Whippet tanks with black swastikas which are a part of the Finnish army's equipment.

Stiff fighting is going on in the second belt of fortifications. Recently I happened to be in a sector in the vicinity of Kivennappa village. It was taken at a single thrust by our units who broke through the Finnish defense with a terrific blow after a 24 hours' march through the woods behind the retreating enemy.

I would like to describe the sight I saw when I climbed the dominating height. The Finns were disposed on three heights; in addition there were fortifications of the field type, seven "millionaire" pillboxes, each of which was supposed to have three guns, six machine guns and a garrison of several

score men. The pillboxes were gigantic affairs with concrete walls of tremendous thickness.

This line was constructed with great speed, and it is interesting to note that judging by the accounts of war prisoners, its beginning coincided with the days when the Finnish representatives in Sweden first raised the question of opening peace negotiations with us. We well know the measure of Finnish cunning and Finnish cruelty, and we need no further proof. The day that Passikivi flew to Moscow to open peace negotiations, Mannerheim flew to Kivnappa to inspect the line of pillboxes. Ignatyev's soldiers and officers, who were among the first to break through to these unfinished forts, have their own sound soldierly understanding and estimation of all the postponements the Finnish government strived for in these negotiations. "They are crooks!"

the soldiers exclaim, adding a few appropriate expressions which, though graphic, I hesitate to reproduce in print.

We spent a good deal of time on the regimental observation post near the pillbox. The elevation dominated the district; we could see the grey tops of the pillboxes that the Finns had built not long ago, and the endless lines of trenches where Finns could be seen floundering through the smoke under our shelling. The entire battle panorama of that fortified zone among the woods, rocks and boulders was visible. Our men truly realize that much heavy fighting lies ahead for them, and that there is no taking everything in our stride here. The Finns understand that nothing will be forgotten and nothing will be forgiven. They are throwing everything they possibly can into this and they will continue to do so.

GAINS IN SOVIET INDUSTRY

Dealing with the work of Soviet industry during the past five months IZVESTIA writes:

The largest coal trusts in the country fulfilled their May plan ahead of time. The May program of the People's Commissariat of the Coal Industry has been exceeded. The oil fields of the Ordzhonikidzenef trust in Baku fulfilled their five months' program ahead of time and produced 5,000 tons of oil in excess of their May plan. The Baku oil refinery workers produced 15 trainloads of fuel in excess of the five months' plan.

Tank, aircraft, armament and ammunition plants also worked efficiently in May. The iron and steel industry raised its output as compared with April. From May, 1943 to May, 1944 pig iron production increased by 27 per cent, steel by 26.5 per cent, rolled iron by 23 per cent, coke by 39 per cent and ore by 17 per cent. The Kuznetsk iron and steel works fulfilled the plan in all branches. The Magnitogorsk works achieved new successes. It is a gratifying fact that among the iron and steel works which successfully accomplished the May plan, outstanding work was done by the Stalino Plant in the Donbas, where recently restored blast and open hearth furnaces exceeded the May program of iron and steel output by approximately 15 per cent.

A special feature of the work of industry in May was that not only did all its branches achieve quantitative success, which is of course of primary importance, but that the same success crowned the efforts of many industrial enterprises to improve economy of production, reduce expenditure of materials and metals and lower costs of production.

June will complete the first half of the year. Our

industry has made a head start, and has accumulated much strength to fulfill the plan for this half of the year ahead of time and to produce hundreds of millions of rubles worth of output for the Supreme Command's Fund. By their heroic labor the Soviet people render the Red Army great support in its struggle for the final defeat of the enemy.

Romny Oil Field Working Again

Since the expulsion of the German invaders from the Sumy Region of the Ukraine, exploitation of the Romny oil field has been resumed, together with intensive prospecting for new oil deposits.

Oil was discovered in Romny by Soviet geologists in 1934. Before the war several dozen wells of small capacity were in operation, but large-scale prospecting was interrupted by the war. Before their retreat the Germans burned down or destroyed the equipment of the Oil Prospecting Administration and put the producing wells out of commission.

Musical Film on Byelorussia

On June 15 a new musical film, *Our Own Byelorussia Lives*, was released in Moscow. This is the first picture to be produced by the restored Byelorussian film studios. The first half depicts life in the villages of Byelorussia, with its songs and dances; the second is devoted to the Patriotic War.

The singers tell of the heroic deeds of the courageous sons of the people—Captain Gastello, General Dovator and others—and end with a song breathing deep faith in the early liberation of all Soviet Byelorussia from the German invaders.

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Increased Skill of the Red Army

By Lieutenant General V. Mordvinov

The Red Army has persistently perfected its military proficiency in the fires of the Patriotic War. It entered the winter campaign of 1943-44 a mature and formidable organism. This historic campaign amply demonstrated that Soviet strategy and tactics are more than a match for German strategy and tactics, and that Soviet military science is superior to the bankrupt doctrine of the German-fascist army. On the fields of battle, in offensive operations unprecedented in scale and fury, its leaders proved to be more skilful than the German generals and officers, and Soviet troops displayed greater competence and proficiency than the picked German divisions.

The correct strategy and tactics of the Soviet

Command found talented executors in the officers and men of the Red Army. Without such capable executors, the finest plans and designs would have come to naught.

In the winter fighting of 1943-44, Soviet troops were confronted with the toughest problems, which could only be solved by genuine masters of military art. The breaching of solid fortified areas, the majority of which were reinforced with ferro-concrete defense works; bold maneuvers to surround and split the enemy groups, and uninterrupted pursuit of the enemy under the most difficult climatic conditions—all this demanded the highest skill and proficiency from the men of the Red Army.



A tank-borne group of Soviet Tommy gunners goes into attack

The increased proficiency of the Red Army has been clearly attested to by the brilliantly organized and executed break-through of the powerful German defenses in the Ukraine, in the Crimea and at Lenin-grad. Their numerous fortified lines and "walls" were shattered in record time.

The skill of the Red Army, tempered and steeled in the furnace of this Patriotic War, revealed itself in all its brilliance in the forcing of wide and deep rivers. The forcing of the Danube by the Russian Army in 1877 was always considered a classical example in the overcoming of water barriers, but the operation in which the Red Army forced the Dnieper eclipsed the glory of the Danube, both in scale and in skill of execution. The Desna, the Dniester, Southern Bug, Prut, Seret and many other rivers were also forced swiftly and boldly.

The offensive operations of the Red Army have enriched and developed the tactics of maneuvering, to which Soviet commanders now widely resort. They have discarded the harmful and stereotyped linear tactics and mastered the art of maneuver. They have learned to create superiority in offensive weapons. This led to the splendid results in the summer of 1943 and in the winter of 1943-44. By bold and skilful maneuver Soviet troops surrounded large enemy formations at Korsun-Shevchenkivsky, Uman, Snegiryovka, Razdelnaya and other areas. Furthermore, by wide encircling movements the Red Army drove the individual enemy groups into "kettles" and "pockets." Encircling maneuvers have become the general form of offensive operations employed by commanders of all Red Army formations and units.

In the course of these offensive operations Soviet commanders displayed splendid ability in organizing the coordination of all arms. The saturation of modern armies with machines and weapons of warfare, the fact that hundreds of guns were massed on every kilometer of the front in the sector of the main drive, and the employment of large masses of tanks and aircraft in operations, demand the utmost skill of both the organizers of a battle and the troops taking part in it.

Similar success was achieved in the coordination of naval and land forces. In operations in the Kerch and Crimean Peninsulas, the Red Army and Navy acted in perfect tactical harmony and agreement. One of the major factors contributing to the success of the complicated operations for encirclement of the enemy was the splendid coordination between infantry, artillery and other arms, on the one hand, and tanks on the other. Infantrymen and tankmen have learned to understand each other perfectly. Tank units commanded by capable officers led and sometimes transported the infantry and supported advance rifle units with their fire, maneuvering and striking at the enemy fire nests and troops.

There have been numerous cases of masses of tanks and mobile troops being introduced into a breach to exploit a success. The Red Army has coped splendidly with such complex and difficult operations, which demand the most minute and perfect cooperation of artillery, infantry, aircraft and engineering troops. Tank formations have repeatedly struck devastating blows at the enemy's flank and rear, and have followed this up by cutting his roads of retreat as a preliminary to surrounding him. "The surrounders may himself be surrounded" is a wise military dictum. Consequently, commanders of tank formations and units have to display great ability in outflanking movements and, at the same time, to beat off the attacks of reserves the enemy throws into action to rescue his surrounded troops. The matchless operations of Soviet tank formations and cavalry in the Korsun-Shevchenkivsky area, the battles of Kiev and Zhitomir and in the Carpathian foothills, are splendid examples of operational and tactical maturity.

Soviet airmen proved themselves adept in actively supporting advanced troops. The Air Force was an invariable factor in all victorious actions. Its timely assaults on the enemy's threatened positions, its devastating blows at his rear installations and communications, the support it gave in the forcing of rivers, were invariably distinguished by precision and perfect coordination with the action of the ground forces.

Another factor which contributed to the success of the Red Army's operations in the winter campaign, apart from efficient coordination on the battlefield and the skill of men and commanders, was the effective use made of the element of surprise. This ability to stagger the enemy with unexpected blows is one of the most striking manifestations of the increased skill and proficiency of the Red Army. Suvorov taught that to surprise is to win. The Red Army's offensive operations abound in proofs of this maxim. By maintaining plans of coming operations in strict secrecy, by regrouping speedily and secretly, by changing the direction of the main blow when there is reason to believe the enemy had guessed the direction of the contemplated action, by sudden attacks of aircraft, cavalry and tanks, and by skilful employment of dummy camouflage to lead the enemy astray, Soviet troops greatly enhanced the effect of their operations.

The military proficiency displayed by Soviet troops in the historic winter campaign of 1943-44 was acquired in the preceding years of war. The Red Army learned while fighting, and fights while learning. Self-complacency and self-satisfaction are alien to Soviet soldiers. Steadily perfecting their skill and proficiency in the heat of action, the Red Army is confidently preparing for new and decisive battles to come.

THE STORMING OF VYBORG

By L. Ganichev and D. Rudnev

The eleventh day of the offensive on the Karelian Isthmus brought the news that Soviet troops have entered Vyborg. The Red flag was raised over the old fortress which has witnessed many glorious victories of the Russian Army. We look admiringly at our Vyborg with its picturesque boulevards, its wide squares and beautiful streets. The smoke of battle still hovers over the city. Its liberators, the men of the Red Army, are marching through the streets. Their dust-covered faces shine with joy and triumph. How they strove to reach Vyborg! Thinking of it in the fire of battle and on the march, they felt inspired and refreshed.

"On to Vyborg!" With these words on their lips the Leningrad soldiers pressed forward to force and tear apart the supposedly impregnable fortified lines. "On to Vyborg!" These words were written on the barrels of heavy guns, mortars, the armor of tanks and the huge billboards which lined the road of victory. And there it is—the old Russian fortress of the city dear to every Soviet person, the sentinel of the Finnish Gulf. Vyborg is ours again. The feeling that they have done their duty, and the realization of the Red Army's full might fills the heart of everybody, from the General down to the private.

We watched the Red Army's onslaught increase steadily and culminate in a brilliant victory. This victory is the direct continuation of the recent defeat suffered by the Germans in Leningrad. But on the Karelian Isthmus Soviet troops did not face individual resistance centers and defense lines. The whole Karelian Isthmus, from the Sestra River to Vyborg, presented a continuous belt of fortifications and obstacles.

Representatives of all the armed forces distinguished themselves in the fighting for Vyborg. But everybody, whether infantryman, tankman or sapper, heaps praise on the artillery. The mighty barrage seemed to personify the power of the Red Army. There were about 500 guns to every kilometer of the break-through sector. All highways and roads were filled with long columns of howitzers, anti-tank guns and self-propelled guns. This majestic sight alone held promise of the crushing rain of steel that was to fall on the enemy at Vyborg.

The last twenty-four hours of the battle of Vyborg witnessed, as did the previous days, the veritable triumph of our artillery. The first round was fired at four P. M. and the roar grew steadily until it reached a deafening crescendo. As soon as the guns opened up, everything seemed to start moving. We saw tommy gunners climb up on tops of tanks, driv-

ers of armored cars switch on their engines and infantrymen push in their tommy-gun drums.

And just before the gun fire sounded, when the air was still trembling from the explosions and shells were still tearing enemy fortifications to pieces, tanks and armored cars rolled forward. With shouts of "hurrah" the infantry rushed directly behind them to the wrecked and shell-smashed enemy defense works.

The fighting now spread to Vyborg's outward belt of fortifications which the Finns defended with greater stubbornness than any other lines. It must be noted that the enemy's resistance stiffened in measure as our troops increased their pressure. The nearer we approached Vyborg the more desperate became the opposition. We took every kilometer by storm and paid in blood for every position. But the price paid by the Finns for their stubbornness was still higher.

The men, commanded by Lieutenant General Tikhonov, moved along the highway littered with enemy dead. They saw their General wherever the outcome of the battle was decided. He was spotting the weak-spots of the enemy's defense and moved his units against those spots. The radio was transmitting reports from field commanders that the outward belt had been forced and troops were advancing at all points. The General took these reports as natural and to be expected. He was coolly directing the fighting. He had full confidence in his troops and his tactical plan.

The fighting went on throughout the night and flared up with still greater intensity in the morning. At dawn the Soviet troops were already attacking the inner defenses of Vyborg. This ring was found to be still more formidable than the previous one because it had been strengthened by large calibre guns located well inside the defense zone. It was up to our artillery again, and our valorous infantry again rolled like a tidal wave toward the enemy. Despite the fact that the Finns put up a wall of fire in the way of our troops and resisted with desperate ferocity, it was clear that we would enter Vyborg in a few hours and the whole country would listen with jubilation to the new Order of the Day of the Supreme Commander Joseph Stalin, whose great spirit was an unfailing source of inspiration to our heroes.

At 11 A. M. on June 20 our vanguard reached Vyborg's southern outskirts. Officers Voronin and Guryev moved their batteries around a small lake, skirted the marsh and reached the railway. These gunners had been in all sorts of tight spots. But they

probably had never been under fire as heavy as this. They were pounded by heavy coastal guns. They were fired at by field pieces, machine guns and Tommy guns. But the men assaulted the fortifications and nothing could check their inspired onrush.

The railway embankment was left behind. The men could already discern wrecked houses and barns,



Radiophoto

Red Army troops survey the ruins of Sevastopol which they freed from the Germans

with flames gushing out from every opening. Street fighting flared up.

Every house, every barn was contested. In forest skirmishes the Finns sometimes sought to avoid com-

ing to close quarters, but here on the streets of Vyborg they fought with savage ferocity. When the battle spread to the outskirts of the city, powerful explosions were heard. Enormous clouds of smoke rose over Vyborg. The Finns were blowing up plants and houses. This intensified the offensive spirit of the Soviet troops. They were called upon to capture Vyborg as quickly as possible in order to save it from the scoundrels.

At a crucial point in the fighting, the Finns hurled forward Major General Ernes-Ruben Lagus' tank divisions which they had been training for two years. They brought up fresh infantry forces in an effort to hold the advance. The enemy's materiel was, of course, far inferior to that of the Red Army. Lagus' armored machines were by no means the latest type. The guns used by the Finns came from arsenals all over Europe. But the enemy had shifted everything he had to the Karelian Isthmus.

Lagus' soldiers, in whom the Finns placed such high hopes, proved incapable of holding up our advance. Every hour brought us new victories. We penetrated Vyborg, reached its center, and by the end of the day established our control over the whole city. At a regimental command point, the radio operator, dispensing with formalities and forgetting about code, was transmitting: "Vyborg is ours! Vyborg is ours!" Today these words are being enthusiastically repeated all over the Soviet Union.

AMERICAN BOMBER PHOTO EXHIBIT IN MOSCOW

A photo exhibit dedicated to the operation of American bombers was opened on June 12 in Moscow, in the House of Architects, under the auspices of VOKS (Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries).

Sixty exhibits provide striking proof of the effective results of the precision bombing of German military targets by American bombers of various types. Numerous photographs show German war plants and airdromes put out of action. Several pictures depict a ballbearing plant in flames after a raid by American bombers. Another series shows the destruction of a German factory near Leipzig, which produced up to 190 Messerschmitts a month. Here also are pictures of bombs bursting in two factory yards, the destruction of a third yard and the wreckage of aircraft just off the production line.

The photographs of Flying Fortresses are impressive. This series depicts the takeoff for a raid deep into enemy territory, Flying Fortresses over a

target area and bombers piercing through a heavy curtain of anti-aircraft fire.

One section of the exhibit is dedicated to photos of mass production of B-26 bombers in a Glenn Martin factory. Next to the rows of motors ready for testing are great numbers of cone-shaped parts receiving final polishing.

The visitor will find many photographs of American bomber heroes who have participated in air raids over Germany. There is a picture of Captain Don Gentile seated in his cockpit, of whom General Eisenhower said that in him the United States has a whole air armada. This young American flier brought down 30 enemy aircraft.

Present at the opening of the exhibit were members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of military missions, art workers and representatives of the Soviet and foreign press.

W. A. Harriman, United States Ambassador to the USSR, and V. Kemenov, Chairman of VOKS delivered short speeches.

SOVIET AGRICULTURE IN THREE YEARS OF WAR

By I. Benediktov

Assistant People's Commissar of Agriculture of the USSR

The three years of the great Patriotic War have been a severe test for Soviet agriculture, but both agriculture and the collective farmers have withstood this test.

During the first period of the war, the enemy captured our country's granaries in the Ukraine, the Don and the Kuban Regions. A considerable proportion of the crop areas were eliminated from the country's agricultural budget. The Soviet Union lived primarily on the output of the Eastern and Central sections. Nevertheless, the country did not live so poorly during this period. Today, perhaps, we do not fully realize what a huge problem has been solved by the Soviet Government and the Soviet people.

The patriotism and efforts of the Soviet collective farmers helped us solve this problem. Farmers in the occupied regions offered resistance to the robber regime of the Hitlerites; thousands of them joined the guerrilla detachments. The collective farmers concealed from the fascists their stocks, food and public property, maintained collective farm rules and at the risk of their lives helped the Red Army in every way they could.

The high degree of organization and vitality of Soviet agriculture may be illustrated by comparing the state of our country's agriculture in 1916—the third year of the First World War, and its state in the same territory in 1943—the third year of the present Patriotic War. In this connection we must also bear in mind the unprecedented scale of the present war, both as to territory involved in the hostilities, the population drawn into the war and the quantities of material resources employed.

Here is what such a comparison shows: In comparable territories, the volume of agricultural production in 1943 considerably exceeds the volume produced not only in 1916, but in the prewar year of 1913, which was noted for its large crop. And this despite the fact that a much larger section of the able-bodied population and draft resources had been diverted from agriculture.

In 1943 the total crop area was 26 per cent larger than in 1913, and 39 per cent larger than in 1916. In a number of regions weather conditions in 1943 were unfavorable, yet the yield of grain crops was considerably higher than in 1916.



Leningrad children stacking hay on a collective farm near Pereyaslavl-Zalessky

In the third year of this unprecedented war, our agriculture produced a harvest of grain crops considerably exceeding that of 1916, and the potato crops were nearly nine times as large.

In the territory in the rear, cattle on collective farms increased during 1941-43 by two per cent and the number of sheep and goats by 16 per cent. Furthermore, the collective farms in 1943 delivered or sold to the State more meat than in 1940. Despite wartime difficulties, collective farms and State farms managed in 1943 to keep the Red Army and the population fairly well supplied with provisions and industry with raw materials.

The productivity of labor increased considerably on collective farms. In 1943 each collective farmer cultivated twice the average area the farmer cultivated in 1913, and draft resources were utilized two and one-half times as productively.

This is explained primarily by the thorough technical re-equipment of agriculture made possible by the progress of Soviet industry. The system of planned economy enabled the country to use its material resources rationally, concentrating them where they could be employed most effectively in coping with urgent problems of national economy.

A great help in overcoming the hardships of wartime were the measures previously taken at Stalin's advice to improve and develop the grain-growing Eastern regions of the country and to set up vegetable, potato, meat and dairy farms near large cities and industrial centers.

The successes achieved by agriculture in the Soviet Union were further consolidated in the spring of 1944. Despite serious hardships caused by the decrease in manpower, the reduction of the number of tractors and horses and the destruction wrought by the German invaders in regions now liberated, collective farms and machine and tractor stations are coping with their tasks this year more successfully than in the preceding years. According to data for June 1, the area sown to grain crops this year in the Soviet Union as a whole exceeds last year's by 6,000,000 hectares. It is particularly noteworthy that the planting of a number of important industrial crops, such as sugarbeets and sunflowers, has been carried out more successfully than in the previous year.

Much attention is being paid this year to the development of potato and vegetable farming. As compared with last year the area sown by collective farmers to potatoes and other vegetables was increased by more than a million hectares; this includes an increase of 730,000 hectares in the area sown to potatoes.

In addition to this, victory gardens cultivated by industrial workers and office employees were ex-

panded. Last year 11,000,000 industrial workers and office employees grew potatoes and other vegetables in their own gardens. This year the number of gardeners has increased considerably. The Government supplied the gardeners with the necessary land and seed.

Important successes have also been achieved by the farmers in the liberated regions. The Ukraine, Orel, Kalinin and Kursk Regions, for example, carried out the State plan for the sowing of spring crops before schedule. The fields of these regions and republics were scenes of fierce battles. Some of these regions were liberated from the invaders a short time ago. Only a year ago nearly the whole Ukraine was separated from the rest of the country by a front line. The success of spring sowing in the liberated republics and regions is a major victory. It testifies to the great vitality of our people and their capacity for constructive activity. The heroic and creative labor of the people delivered from fascist bondage contributed a great deal to wipe out the consequences of German occupation.

Since the expulsion of the invaders, the liberated regions received over 22,000 tractors and many thousand ploughs, seeders and motor trucks. By January 1, 1944 the liberated regions received from the Eastern regions 1,200,000 head of livestock and over 500,000 poultry. More than a million head of livestock will be delivered to the liberated regions this summer.

As they enter the fourth year of the great Patriotic War, the Soviet farmers look confidently ahead, burning with the desire to finish off the enemy and utterly defeat German fascism.

The Soviet farmers know that many difficulties still lie ahead, but the worst is over. Soviet agriculture—which coped with its tasks in the hardest period when large territories of our country were overrun by the enemy, when tens of thousands of tractors and other agricultural machines had to be removed far into the interior of the country, when a million head of livestock had to be driven eastward and transport facilities had to be provided for the vast masses of people—will acquit itself with honor in the tasks in the period of rehabilitation. The re-evacuation of machines, livestock and other property has, in the main, already been accomplished. Tens and hundreds of thousands of experts who at one time moved to the East, have returned to their native sections and are devoting all their efforts to the speedy regeneration of the collective farms.

The success of the spring sowing this year shows what truly inexhaustible possibilities are latent in Soviet agriculture. This victory brings closer the day of complete triumph of all freedom-loving nations, the day of the defeat of Hitlerite Germany.

Soviet Women Doctors in War

By Professor Valentina Gorinevskaya

Colonel of the Medical Service of the Red Army

For three years now Soviet women doctors have been striving side by side with men doctors to save the lives and health of our men at the front. Our women doctors have displayed miracles of heroism and fortitude. Under all conditions, through air raids and bombardments, in dugouts and demolished buildings, they perform delicate operations, saving the lives entrusted to their care. Often they carry on their work for nights on end, without rest.

Detachments of Russian women doctors appeared for the first time in a theater of military operations in 1877, during the Turkish campaign. At that time there were 50 women who had just graduated from the medical courses at St. Petersburg, established in 1872. Sent to the front together with their professors, they worked under their guidance but were soon assigned to separate sectors where they carried on independently in the capacity of house surgeons and regimental doctors.

Women doctors served in the military hospitals for contagious diseases and rendered aid to typhus patients. One of them, Dr. Bestuzheva, even managed, amidst the difficulties of front-line life, to write a scientific work on the so-called Danube RX fever.

At the beginning of the First World War in 1914, the Tsarist government did not allow women doctors in the Army. Those desiring to go to the front could join the Red Cross and work in field hospitals as nurses only. We women doctors greatly resented this. We had studied for so many years and many of us had already worked at the clinic of the Women's Medical Institute in St. Petersburg and had served as independent surgeons in a district hospital.

I was assisting Professor Kalyan at that time and an exception was made in my case. I went to the front as a senior surgeon. As for my women colleagues, they arrived later as nurses, but actually served as doctors and performed the most difficult operations.

During the final years of the First World War, when the keen shortage of doctors made itself felt at the front, women doctors were mobilized and sent to Red Cross hospitals.

The October Revolution gave women the same rights as men, including the right to take a direct part in the country's defense. In the Civil War women doctors shared the work equally with men doctors. In the great Patriotic War against German fascism they have gone to the front in great numbers, not only as a result of mobilization but also as volunteers. Women doctors are holding varied posts.

They are regimental, divisional, corps and brigade doctors, heads of hospitals, and serve both Army and guerrilla detachments. In the three years of war thousands of them have been decorated with orders and medals for selfless devotion to duty, bravery and professional skill.

There are many outstanding women doctors of



Surgeon K. P. Tagibekov, Nurse A. Y. Polyakova and Surgeon V. V. Morozova making rounds in a field hospital

whom I will mention but a few. First, there is Elena Sapozhnikova, a Major in the Medical Service. In the war against the Finns, when she worked in a field hospital together with her friend Katya Kolpakova, she displayed great ability as a surgeon. In the early days of the Patriotic War, Sapozhnikova succeeded in being assigned to the front, and left her small daughter in her mother's care. When the hos-

pital in which she worked was evacuated to the rear, she applied for a transfer to the front again. Her request was granted. This determined and energetic doctor worked indefatigably and endured all the difficulties and hardships of campaign life.

She has been in the mountains and canyons of the Caucasus, in the marshes of the Kuban and in the Crimea. Four times Sapozhnikova has waded across the Sivash, known as the "Rotten Sea." Once she was the only one left in a small town to which the Germans were rapidly approaching. She was treating a Red Army man who had severed a blood vessel. The patient had lost much blood, and unless an immediate operation was performed, death was certain.

"Quick, doctor! You must leave at once," she was warned. "German tanks are already visible!"

But she continued with the operation. Fortunately our planes arrived and prevented the enemy from breaking through to the town.

Doctors Titova, Aralovich and Dymnikova are also among the modest women doctors who are unselfishly working for the cause. Every one of them fulfills her responsible tasks with the greatest devotion, and strives to find new ways and means to restore the wounded men as quickly as possible to the ranks. This rapidly replenishes the Army with experienced, seasoned fighting men.

A great deal has been done toward the solution of this important problem by Dr. Dymnikova, the surgeon who worked out and put into practice in the hospitals for light wounds (hand, arm, finger and soft tissues) the method of repeated suture.

She has done this in over 500 cases with splendid results. Her method has reduced the term of hospital treatment to one-half. Dr. Dymnikova's patients return to the ranks in one or two months, whereas ordinarily they would have had to spend three to four months in the hospital.

Major Titova of the Medical Service, who is with a front-line hospital, is engaged in the problem of developing substitute functions for the remaining fingers after amputation of the index finger of the right hand. She operates on this finger in such a way that the remaining stump does not hinder the movement of the healthy third finger. As a result, the wounded man can fire a rifle. Thanks to Dr. Titova's efforts, a soldier who was seemingly unfit for service returns to his unit a capable rifleman one month after being wounded.

The Soviet woman doctor has revealed the strength and endurance so necessary for her work under the most difficult conditions, often under enemy fire. At the same time she has not lost her feminine charm, sensitiveness and tenderness, characteristics no less valuable at the front than they are in family and domestic life.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION CONSTANTLY IMPROVED

The Central Institute of Blood Transfusions of the USSR, founded over 18 years ago, has been awarded the Order of Lenin for outstanding achievements. New methods of conserving and transporting blood have been developed by Professors Bagdasarov, Vlados, Seltsovsky, Bulsin and other scientists connected with the Institute. Formerly blood from donors could be kept only a short time, limiting the possibilities for its use. Conserved according to the latest methods it may be transfused to a wounded patient 20 to 25 and even 30 days after being taken from the donor.

The preparation and conservation of blood for Red Army wounded has developed on a large scale in our country. Thousands of mothers, sisters, wives and friends of Red Army and Navy men give blood daily at the donor stations, of which about 1,500 have been opened during the war. The Central Institute alone has sent more than 100 tons of blood to the front, and 600 to 700 donors visit it each day. Alexandra Dmitrieva, a laboratory worker of the Frunze Academy, recently gave blood for the 13th

time. Hundreds of lives have been saved by Vera Nizyaeva, who in 15 years donated about 40 liters of blood, eight times as much as the human body contains.

Rosenberg, a young Soviet scientist, has worked out a method for obtaining natural blood substitutes by means of drying blood serum. The results have proved superior to all known methods of processing serum. Dry blood serum prepared by the Institute is being successfully used in a number of sectors of the Soviet-German front, by the Northern Fleet Marine units, the guerrilla detachments, etc. Important work is also being done in the Institute of the creation of artificial blood substitutes—saline and colloid solutions, etc.

A group of doctors and scientists are experimenting with new methods of blood transfusion and testing blood substitutes under front-line conditions. Representatives of the Institute assist doctors at the front to master new methods of transfusion and to keep in touch with the latest achievements of Soviet medicine.

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THREE YEARS

By Ilya Ehrenburg

Before the war the world knew little about us. The fascist plague was already raging, but many purblind democrats tried to fence themselves off by a cordon sanitaire, not from the seat of contagion but from the country which had outstripped the rest on the road to social progress. Europe was threatened with a great eclipse. But bad shepherds

screened themselves from the light. I have read dozens of books written about our country by foreigners. One was struck by their lack of vision and sense of proportion. Foreign tourists willingly enlarged upon our bad roads, our crowded Moscow homes, our poor footwear.

All this was true, but all in all it was a lie: the



Red Army men talking to several remaining inhabitants of a liberated village

details prevented the authors from seeing the whole. They did not see the country which was crowding at a fabulous speed; they did not understand that we were living with scaffolding around us, that it was harder to find shoes for two hundred million than for two hundred thousand. Not attempting to listen to the talk in crowded Moscow homes—from which they might have learned that our people had set foot on the road to knowledge, that they had become the masters of their country—and noting with an air of superiority the absence of one or another article of comfort, they forgot that we had Hitler Germany as a neighbor, and that we had to think about our defense.

Russia was pictured abroad as a "giant with feet of clay." Three years ago this comparison threw the Germans into ecstasy, and it induced certain Americans prematurely to bewail our doom. The first months of the war seemed to confirm this opinion: people a long way off failed to see that we were retreating but not yielding; that the country was gathering strength from its misfortune; that the factories which migrated to the East were multiplying their output and that our soldiers, as they retreated, were thinking of the coming offensive.

Now the salutes in Moscow are telling what the foreigners failed to understand, namely, that the giant has sturdy feet. It would seem that we should have been worn out by now after three years of such a bloody war; but even in her most dazzling periods—when Voltaire flattered Catherine or when Napoleon fell at the point of Russian lances—even then Russia did not impress the world by her might, as she does now. Much has changed in these three years. We were the first soldiers of resistance and we will be the first smiths of victory.

That victory will not come easily. We are paying for it with our finest blood. We denied ourselves much for the sake of our children. We thought they were destined for happiness. They were destined for terrible battles.

We built up our country by the sweat of our brow. We were proud of our cities. Our life was still unsettled; like a new house it smelled of paint and drying oil. Heinz Kilwoy, a German tankman of the Death's Head Division, says: "Hauptscharfuhrer Lutze pointed to a burning house and cried: 'What a fine blaze! All the other houses must burn the same way.' We sang and danced around the burning houses." . . . Yes, they reduced the labor of a generation to ashes. They called the desert zone the "highest achievement of German military genius."

They robbed us of our reliquaries. In Yalta they took a fancy to the house in which Leo Tolstoy had lived. They turned it into stables. They fitted up the museum in Tsarskoye Selo as a delousing station.

From the gold of the Novgorod Kremlin they made goblets and ash trays.

They robbed us of our trustfulness and our kindness. They made the most peaceful people bless the weapons of destruction. We have become wise, and that wisdom is heavy as stone.

I recall those times three years ago. Young Vasya, with his chubby childish face, could not make up his mind whether it was better to be a historian or a linguist. The chairman of the Zavety Ilyicha collective farm aspired to win a prize at the Agricultural Exhibit. In the Park of Culture, rockets traced words of happiness. Bobrov, a young schoolmaster, whispered into Olga's ear, "We'll visit the Crimea together." By August we will have a workers' suburb built, thought Architect Chebuyev as he dropped off to sleep. In the play *Mashenka* the old professor murmured, "Somewhere wars are going on, but we are immersed in our labors," and he was applauded. Young men were jealous because "she" had smiled at another. Fathers of families were worried because it was hard to find a summer villa. The people wondered what July would be like—fine or rainy? The next morning (it was Sunday) Moscow awoke care-free, filled with summer languor. Thoughts turned to lilacs and woods and summer vacations.

But along the roads of Lithuania frantic women were running blindly, and the blood of frontier guards already stained the green grass. Loudspeakers cried hoarsely, "Citizens. . ."

They had made long and careful preparations. They had thought out every step. Muehler marched on Kiev. Schulz on Leningrad. Kwachke sped toward Moscow. There were millions of them. Violent and arrogant, they pawed the ground like restive horses. Professors from Jena, Marburg, Heidelberg and Bonn lectured on the palaces of St. Petersburg, on the properties of the Russian black earth belt, on the ancient route to India, on Orel and the Urals. They quartered themselves in the cities of ravaged Poland: students, drivers, brewers, metaphysicians, sausage-makers, duelists, thieves, policemen, supermen, traveling salesmen, pederasts and barons.

Among them was Schramke, who filched eight watches in Paris, Stolz who raped 15 Polish women and Heinz who mounted the Acropolis and broke off one of Aphrodite's marble fingers. They had guide books which said that the Russians were an inferior race, fit only to be subjugated. They had vocabularies: "Give me your cow," "Stand against the wall," "Come to bed with me," "Dig yourself a grave." They had compasses so as not to lose themselves in the Siberian taiga. They had maps so as to make beelines for Iran. They had powerful tanks, dive bombers, soaring mortar bombs and motor vehicles from all Europe. They had oberfuhrers and



An apartment house belonging to workers of the Metallolom factory in Konstantinovka, Donets Valley, after the rout of the Germans

sonderfuehrers, sturmbannfuehrers, rottenfuehrers, standartfuehrers, scharfuehrers and gruppenfuehrers. And they had a fuehrer corporal who spat on Europe from the top of the Eiffel Tower. On the shortest night of the year they surged Eastward. They shot at children from their tommy guns. They crushed women beneath their tanks. They burned down cities. They sailed, crawled and flew.

That was only three years ago. How long ago it seems! The chairman of the Zavety Ilyicha collective farm fell defending Leningrad. Schoolmaster Bobrov was killed in Stalingrad. His Olga is an Army radio operator now in Rumania. Architect Chebuyev is neither a linguist nor a historian; he is a scout. The author of the play *Mashenka* was killed by a bomb. And the people are asking themselves: What will July be like, and where will our offensive begin?

Before clay can become a pitcher it must be baked. Boats are tarred and steel is tempered. We have been steeled. It is said of a mature genius that he has achieved a childish simplicity. That is not quite so; there is the simplicity of the beginning and there is another simplicity—the simplicity of wisdom. Often a whole lifetime lies between them. Who knows how far we have advanced in these three years? We have seen on the battlefields what was not to be found in books. Life has proved to be more simple and more complex. The stern soldier will smile at a child or a flower, but the hundreds of absurd joys and petty woes which agitated him three years ago now leave him indifferent. He has realized that happiness is not an electric light that can be lit by the

turn of a switch, but a spark which is struck out of flint. He now prefers the deep forest to the beaten path. He has learned that words are arbitrary but blood is viscous.

It is said of man that he has reached maturity. Of a nation it may also be said that it has reached maturity.

There is a connection between the spiritual experience of every soldier and the Guards banner. The lieutenant says, "Aim one less!" as he calls upon the batteries to fire upon him. He does not seek death and he does not fear it, for he has learned that death is a part of life, like flowers and girls. That lieutenant does not philosophize; he has no time for it. His thoughts are of the distances of mail and a soldier's sou. But he has become a philosopher all the same; he has learned to know life.

Before the war we had high ideals: a wealthy country, talented men, and opportunity. If we lacked anything, it was experience. In every undertaking it is not only the conception that counts but also the execution. In battle our people have learned to carry out what has been planned. For if the gun-layer makes a mistake, if the sniper is in too much of a hurry or the tankman too slow, the battle will be lost.

I know many majors who began the war as privates. But that is not the important thing. The important thing is that the 1944 private is not the private of earlier days. There is a Marshal's star on the breast of our people. That is why the Army which retreated in the summer of 1941 is now knocking at the gates of Germany.

Of the Germans who crossed our frontiers on June 22, 1941, very few have survived. And the heads of veterans are crammed with geographical names. Where have they not been? If they were tourists they might say, "We have done what we wanted to." But they are not tourists; they are would-be conquerors. What good is it to them that they have seen the mountains of the Caucasus, the sands of Egypt, the Volga and the Dnieper? The inscriptions on German grave crosses from Stalingrad to Bayeux, from the Karelian Front to Libya, constitute the address book of the Germany of yesterday. Behind them lie the ruins of German cities. Is this what they dreamed about? They marched on India and Siberia, and now they are back in the same place where three years ago they began their campaign.

They now talk of defense, which means that they have lost the war. The English in 1940 could await the invasion with fortitude because they were defending their Islands, their rights and their liberties. When the Germans reached the Volga, we did not lose heart; we were defending Russian land and the Soviet State. The Germans have not and cannot have the high moral consciousness that imparts fortitude in misfortune. No one attacked Germany. We are coming to them as plaintiffs and judges. You cannot be a hero with a skeleton key in your pocket and the blood of children on your hands. Germany was strong as long as she was conquering. Her children were trained for depredations. But it is vain for Hitler to count on the moral strength of unsuccessful bandits.

A year ago the Germans still did not realize the full significance of Stalingrad. They were preparing for the offensive against the Kursk salient. They thought to turn the trick with their Tigers and Panthers. That offensive did not last long and was the last of the Germans' offensives. Now the Germans are gloomily wondering where to expect the next blow. Our offensive on Vyborg, and its subsequent capture, is one more reminder that the time for decisive assaults has come.

Three years ago on our front the way was paved for the Allies' operations in Normandy. American correspondents remark with surprise that there are juveniles and elderly men among the German prisoners. That is not because the Germans did not bear sons 25 years ago. It is because the 25-year-old Germans were killed in Russia. Nothing can save Germany now from encirclement, neither rocket bombs nor von Papen's swearing. The Cotentin operation is coming to an end. It will be followed by gigantic battles. French guerrillas are harassing the invaders. In Italy the Germans are beginning to resemble the Italians in their capacity for being taken prisoner and their capacity for running away. All that

is only the beginning. But how near is that beginning to the end?

I don't say the last stage will be an easy one. It is not an abstract German people we have to deal with, but a very real murder gang, millions strong. Where is the German people? It is not visible. Has it resorted, after the magic carpet, to the magic tablecloth and the magic cap? We are dealing with Germans who are bound together by thieves' honor. They are looking for a loophole. They want to make it a draw. They hope to adjourn the game for 20 years. They will resist frantically, and the final "quarter-hour" will be a hard one. All the same, we'll get to Berlin. That was predetermined on June 22, 1941, at the very hour when the Germans attacked us.

We are being led there by a just wrath. Our land has seen invaders before. Peter the Great drank to the vanquished Swedes. Russian troops in Paris fondled the children of Napoleon's soldiers. But can the Nazis be compared with Karl's Swedes or Bonaparte's Frenchmen? The Germans perpetrated their inhuman deeds deliberately, coolly and methodically in order to rid Russia of Russians, to demonstrate their race superiority, to amuse themselves. You can forgive a human being but not a robot—not the operators of "murder vans," nor the ruffians who asphyxiate women with gases. You can forgive your own injuries but not the injuries done to children. In Mariupol on October 20, 1941, the Germans led several thousand inhabitants to execution. The doomed people were ordered to remove their clothing. Tiny Volodya, not realizing what was awaiting him, said, "Mama, are we going to bathe?" Who will dare forgive what the Germans did to Volodya?

The Germans turned the observatory of Semeiz into stables, and the platform where the astronomers studied heavenly bodies into a latrine.

We don't want to smash the telescopes of Jena. We don't want to set fire to Goethe's house. We don't want to smear the lips of German children with prussic acid. But there is one thing we want to do, and that is to rid the world of criminals. We want to put Germany into a straitjacket. We want to go to them so that they may never again come to us. In that way we will save not only Russian children and the Soviet Union, but all mankind.

For three years my land has been suffering . . . I don't know what the day will be like when we enter Berlin—sultry, rainy or frosty. But I do know that when marching through the gloomy, barrack-like streets of Berlin, each one of us will remember that June morning when life was cut into halves. And breaking a sword on Hitler's head, we will say: *Never again!*



HOW NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLAND WAS FORMED

By M. Morawski

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The following article appeared in WAR AND THE WORKING CLASS, No. 12:

The National Council of Poland, *Krajowa Rada Narodowa*, was organized in the course of the grim struggle of the Polish people against the German invaders.

To understand why and how the Council came into being, we must trace the history of Poland's political life from the moment of the disaster which befell her in the autumn of 1939—into which the country was led by the then existing government of Beck and Rydz-Smigly who represented the so-called *Sanacja* camp.

It was a tremendous disaster in the life of the Polish people. During the first period after the defeat of Poland by the Hitlerite hordes, the people remained without any political guidance. They spontaneously fought the German invaders as much and as well as they could under those extremely hard conditions. All the political organizations in the country were smashed. When General Sikorski's Polish government-in-exile was formed in London, the masses of the people in Poland assumed a waiting attitude with regard to it. The people first wanted to see what role the government would play, what policy it would pursue and, in general, what would come of it.

Some of the measures taken by that government met with approval in Poland. That refers, for example, to the formation of the Polish army. The Polish people particularly approved and supported Sikorski's step in concluding the treaty with the Soviet Union. It should also be remembered that Sikorski had dissociated himself from the *Sanacja* regime before the war in Poland.

Prior to the defeat of France at the hands of the Hitlerite hordes, the *Sanacja* camp of Polish reaction lay low and kept out of the political arena. Utterly and irrevocably compromised in the eyes of the masses, it did not, however, intend to surrender its position. Since they did not dare come forward openly under their own colors, the representatives of the bankrupt clique sought to penetrate various organizations.

They seized on France's defeat as a convenient excuse for the attempt to whitewash Poland's pre-war government regime on the plea that it could not be held responsible for the misfortunes that had befallen Poland, since, as the example of France allegedly showed, "no one could withstand the Germans."

This clique primarily sought to penetrate the military organizations that had sprung up in Poland after her defeat—for one thing, the so-called ZWZ or League of Armed Struggle. That organization of Polish soldiers was headed by the most reactionary elements of the Polish officers' corps, men who had been associated with the so-called "Two," the second (Intelligence) department of the general staff.

Ever since 1926 the Polish army had been in the hands of reactionaries who had done all they could to rid its ranks of their political opponents. Now they planned to capture the key positions and build up their own forces under a slogan creating a national military organization that would "remain aloof from politics." Their plan was to consolidate their positions in the ZWZ by planting their own men in it.

Differences of opinion existed between General Sikorski and the *Sanacja* camp from the very beginning. Sikorski did not trust the ZWZ. That explains why he unhesitatingly gave his consent to the formation of another military organization which became known as the *Momenda Obroncow Polski* or Poland's Defenders.

Apart from these organizations and independent of them, almost all the major political parties of Poland—such as the Peasant Party (*Stronnictwo Ludowe*), the Workers Party of Polish Socialists, representing the left wing of the Polish Socialist Party (the PPS), and others—set up their own military organizations. These organizations waged a struggle against the German invaders by the means they had at their command. The principal method of struggle during that period was the organization of anti-Hitlerite sabotage.

Sikorski's policies, especially his foreign policy met with serious opposition by the *Sanacja* camp and the reactionary officers. Sikorski's tragedy was that he could not make up his mind to rely on the support of the democratic circles of Poland. Yet only among them could he find the backing for his foreign policy. The elements whose support he sought were too narrow-minded to back him and to realize how vastly important it is for Poland's national interests to pursue the policy of friendship with her great Eastern neighbor. The Polish reactionaries refused to see where the true interests of Poland lay.

Against Sikorski fought the National Democrats, the right wing of the Polish Socialist Party, the so-called WRN group (freedom, equality and inde

pendence), and—such is the irony of fate—even that section of the Labor Party which he himself had created. The opposition which was directed mainly against Sikorski's foreign policy became ever more active. After signing the treaty with the Soviet Union, several ministers resigned from his cabinet—among them General Sosnkowski, the leader of the *Sanacja* camp, who later launched furious attacks against Sikorski and began to hatch designs in the ranks of the reactionary Polish emigres for a *coup d'état*.

In Poland, Sikorski's government had its so-called representation in which four parties cooperated, the National Democrats, the Peasant Party, the Labor Party, and the Workers' Party of Polish Socialists. Those four parties were officially recognized by the Polish government in London and formed a bloc which served as that government's support in Poland. The representatives of those parties set up what was known as the Polish Coordination Committee.

The *Sanacja* camp gradually strengthened its positions in the various parties and groups. Its tactic was to isolate Sikorski and particularly to gain control over the above-mentioned Polish Coordination Committee. As a result of a series of tricks and maneuvers, the set-up in that Committee was changed. Persons who supported Sikorski were removed from it and replaced by representatives of the WRN group, the most rabid anti-Soviet party in Poland and the implacable enemy of Sikorski's foreign policy. The pressure on Sikorski became stronger, and gradually the Polish government-in-exile was driven along the path which led to its support of the Hitlerites' Katyn provocation and the rupture of relations with the Soviet Union.

After Sikorski's death the reactionary circles intensified their activity both in Poland and among the emigres. Sosnkowski became the commander-in-chief of the Polish armed forces and set out to place his men wherever he could, both in Poland and in England. At the time when resistance of the Polish people to the German invaders was growing, the Polish government-in-exile in London pursued a ruinous policy of "passive waiting," a policy which did not in the least conform to the sentiments inside the country. Instead of calling upon the Polish people to fight the German invaders, it called upon them to "be patient and wait."

The *Sanacja* camp based its calculations on the theory that Russia would be bled white in the struggle against the Germans, so that after the defeat of the latter she would be powerless to take care of her interests. The Polish reactionaries frankly trained their forces not to fight the Germans, but to fight first for the internal struggle for power and for

the restoration of the reactionary regime in Poland; and secondly, to fight against the Soviet Union whom they called "enemy No. 1." They called upon the Polish masses "not to irritate" the Germans, and not to help the Red Army in its war against the Hitlerite hordes. They insisted that the defeat of the Germans would mean disaster for Europe.

Those calls and that policy were utterly at variance with the sentiments of the Polish people who saw their salvation in the defeat of Hitlerite Germany, rejoiced in the Red Army's victories and eagerly waited for its arrival. On the other hand, the Polish people saw that it was just when they were passive that the Hitlerites inflicted on them the worst blows, whereas the Hitlerites were often forced to desist when they met with resistance.

Cut adrift from the masses of the people, who were waging guerrilla war and were actively resisting the German invaders, the Polish government-in-exile did not, in its impotent rage, shrink from starting a fratricidal war against its own people. After the Katyn provocation, the Germans made it known to the leadership of the armed units set up by the Polish government-in-exile on Polish territory, the so-called *Armja Krajowa*, that they would not be averse to cooperating in the organization of detachments to fight the advancing Red Army. The *Armja Krajowa* was then headed by General Grot. He rejected those suggestions and immediately fell into the hands of the Germans and was flung into prison. General Bur, who replaced him, actually played into the hands of the Germans by forming special detachments to combat the Soviet and Polish guerrillas. That was a year and one-half ago. Thus the government-in-exile used its armed forces in Poland to fight together with the Hitlerites against the Polish guerrillas. It began to call upon the Polish people to fight not the Germans but the guerrillas, whom it described as "bandits."

The autumn of 1943 was marked by the most ferocious reprisals against the Polish population. The Germans arranged wholesale round-ups in the towns and villages, and made mass arrests. The Hitlerites murdered prisoners in jails, arrested people in the streets of Warsaw and other towns, and shot them summarily.

The masses of the people in Poland became deeply alarmed. They had every reason to fear that the Germans would deal with the Poles as they had dealt with the Jews. From all ends of the country, from towns and villages, from factories and mills, voices rose demanding the organization and leadership for the struggle of the popular masses against the Hitlerites. It was obvious to all that the Polish government in London, divorced from the country, was doing quite the opposite of what the people demanded and expected.

The wholesale murder of the Polish people and the ruinous policy of the Polish government in London gave rise to ferment in the military units formed by that government. Whole groups of officers and men came over to the side of the guerrillas. At the same time General Rola joined the ranks of the fighting patriots. It was then that negotiations were initiated between the various parties with a view to organizing a common political and military leadership, for as stated above, each party had its own armed detachments.

On the eve of the New Year of 1944, 30 representatives of the democratic parties of Poland met in strict secrecy in Warsaw. Among those parties were the opposition Peasant Party (*Stronnictwo Ludowe*) representing the majority of that party which withdrew its support from the Polish government in London, the Polish Workers Party, and the Workers Party of Polish Socialists. There were also representatives of the underground trade unions, democratic organizations of professionals, the League of Youth Struggle (*Walki Młodych*), groups of non-partisan democrats, scientific workers, co-operative workers, etc. Furthermore, there were representatives of underground military organizations of the People's Guard, peasant battalions and others, as well as representatives of some units of the *Armja Krajowa*. Camouflaged machine guns were held in readiness in the quarters where the meeting took place. The officers of the People's Guard were on hand to man the machine guns if necessary. The conference lasted from six in the evening until five the next morning.

The conference drew up the Constitution of the National Council of Poland. It adopted a social and political program and set up the united military leadership of all the armed forces of the Polish People's Army. General Rola was placed at the head of that Army.

The conference in Warsaw passed a resolution condemning the fratricidal war started at the orders of the Polish government-in-exile. The conference addressed, in the name of the Council, an appeal to the population not to carry out the instructions of the government-in-exile about the reprisals against the guerrillas, and warned that the future Polish government would bring to trial all those who took part in the struggle against the Polish guerrillas.

The conference addressed greetings to the three Allied Governments of Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. Messages were sent announcing the formation of the National Council of Poland, stating that the Polish people were prepared to continue the struggle against the German invaders to the last drop of blood. The conference

also addressed a request to the Allied Governments to help the fighters for the liberation of Poland with arms which the Polish people needs for its struggle against the German barbarians.

The National Council of Poland announced that it recognizes the democratic constitution of 1921 as against the fascist constitution of 1935 which is the basis of the Polish government in London. The Council was born in the struggle of the Polish people against the German brigands. On the platform of this struggle against the Germans it united all the truly patriotic and democratic organizations of Poland.

The Central Council has its organs in provinces in the shape of provincial, town, country and rural councils. The men who have created this network of underground patriotic organizations work in strict secrecy. They must keep their identity concealed not only from the Germans but from agents of the Polish government-in-exile. The main and fundamental task of all organizations of the Council is to fight the German invaders.

The delegates of the Council have come to the Soviet Union to establish contact with the Governments of the Allied countries that are fighting Hitlerite Germany, and with the Polish democratic organizations in emigration in the United States, England, the Soviet Union and other countries. They have also come to acquaint themselves with the Polish Army that has been formed on the territory of the Soviet Union.

We should like the Russian people to know what a profound difference exists between the reactionary Polish-fascist clique and the Polish people. The Polish people desires friendship and the best of relations with its great neighbor. It feels deeply grateful to the Red Army which is relentlessly beating the German invaders, our age-old enemies, who threaten the very existence of Poland and the Polish people.

New Teachers Graduated

This year 25,000 young specialists were graduated from the pedagogical institutes of the Russian SFSR—twice as many as last year. Some 50 per cent of the graduates will be assigned to work in the liberated regions, where 2,500 schools will be opened in 1944. Seven hundred teachers are leaving for the Kalinin Region, where 500 new schools are opening and 540 teachers are being sent to Stalingrad.

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